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Adamishin Expects No Quick Results at Tajik Peace Talks

MK1003114094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 3

[Interview with Anatoliy Adamishin, Russian first deputy foreign minister, by Sanobar Shermatova under the "Talks" rubric: "Site of Meeting—Moscow. Tajik Opposition Agreed for the First Time To Hold Talks With Government"—place and date not given]

[Excerpts] The 6 March meeting of Russian diplomats with leaders of the warring Tajikistani opposition in Tehran has become an event of primary importance for the CIS' southern regions. Anatoliy Adamishin, Russian first deputy foreign minister, who headed the Russian delegation, gave an interview to Sanobar Shermatova.

[Shermatova] Anatoliy Leonidovich, have the talks produced any results?

[Adamishin] Two basic agreements have been reached. The opposition has for the first time agreed to sit down at the negotiating table with the government. Earlier, they refused to do so, wishing to speak directly to the "masters," as they called Moscow. The second point is that they agreed to come to Moscow for the first meeting (previously they mentioned Tehran or Geneva, fearing Tajik hitmen and being not completely sure that they will have adequate security in Moscow). This is understandable, given that very recently the Tajikistan prosecutor's office ruled that opposition chiefs are guilty and launched a search for them. Meanwhile, Tajikistan and Russia have an agreement on legal assistance... Before going to Tehran, I met with Tajikistan Supreme Soviet Chairman Emomali Rakhmanov, who guaranteed the opposition absolute security at the talks. [passage omitted]

[Shermatova] You met with leaders of the warring opposition for the first time. What impression did they produce on you?

[Adamishin] Both Mr. Turadzhonzoda and Mr. Khimmatzoda are people to talk to. As for former Tajik Foreign Minister Khudayberdy Khaliknazarov, I met with him earlier and this is a serious person. [passage omitted]

[Shermatova] Tightly tied in the Tajik knot are sometimes conflicting interests of various circles in Dushanbe, Tashkent, Moscow, Kabul, and Tehran. What is your forecast for the evolution of events?

[Adamishin] I do not expect quick results from the talks; to all appearances, they will be difficult and prolonged, all the more given the great human suffering and losses sustained by both warring sides in Tajikistan. But there is no other way—either talks or further bloodshed. There can be no winners in civil war. [passage omitted]

Call for Middle East Peace Conference Supported

LD0903175294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 9 Mar 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] Russia's call for convening another international conference on the Middle East in Madrid gained support from the conflicting sides and from the other cosponsor of the peace process, the USA. This statement was made at Wednesday's briefing in Moscow by Russia's First Deputy Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, who had just returned from a tour of Mideast countries.

According to him, "the well-planned action" in Hebron, where an Israeli settler discharged a submachine gun and killed about 60 Palestinians, "disrupted the entire negotiating process and inflicted a mortal wound on the emerging understanding." "The tragedy in Hebron gave rise to a wave of activity among those who oppose the peace process," the diplomat stressed.

The goal of his mission, he explained, was to evaluate the situation that took shape in the wake of the tragedy in Hebron, and discuss the possibility of "reciprocal compromises". "In the course of contacts the issue of security guarantees in the occupied territories rose to the foreground," Ivanov said.

The diplomat called for adopting by the U.N. Security Council as soon as possible a resolution that would guarantee safety for the population in the occupied territories, and stipulate conditions for international presence there. "It's impossible to resume the negotiating process there at a stroke. A tragedy has occurred, and old conditions are no longer satisfactory. What is needed is actions designed to guarantee that such things will not happen again, and conducive to the implementation of agreements already reached," he pointed out.

No Secret Kazakh-Ukraine Accord on Baykonur

LD0703185694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1721 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] A member of the Russian parliament has denied recent reports in some of Moscow's newspapers that Kazakhstan and Ukraine have a secret agreement on the joint use of the Baykonur space-vehicle launching complex.

Konstantin Zatulin told a news conference in Almaty, where he had been monitoring the parliamentary elections as an international observer, that Russia and Kazakhstan were going to enter into a treaty on the further use of Baykonur. The document was due to be signed by the two countries' presidents in Moscow on March 30, he said.

Commenting on a meeting he had with Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister Yerik Asanbayev, Zatulin said Kazakhstan's leadership preferred not to bring up the dual citizenship issue, but that the next parliament might consider giving Russian the status of an official language.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 10 Mar

LD1003064094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0530 GMT 10 Mar 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March (ITAR-TASS)—Today's Moscow newspapers focus on the 60th birth anniversary of the world's first cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin.

The RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA newspaper writes: "Let us devote a few kind words to the first cosmonaut along with the whole world which marks Gagarin year at the call of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural organisation. Do not shun idealisation. After all, we should have some ideals".

The TRUD newspaper carries reminiscences by Cosmonaut no. 2 Gherman Titov about Gagarin. "Gagarin preserved dignity, despite the hard test of world-wide fame and general love. His fate is like a sun-drenched smile of Russia."

Writing about Gagarin, the ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper runs an exclusive interview with Valeri Alaverdov, first deputy managing director of the Russian Space Agency, under the headline "We've Gained Experience of Man's Longest Stay in Space". He comments on the Russian Federal Space Programme up to the year 2000 which was recently approved by the government.

The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper writes that "Gagarin was brought up by the Soviet socialist state which inculcated him with high spiritual qualities". The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper prints a feature on Gagarin.

ROSSIYSKIE VESTI prints an article by chairman of the state property committee Anatoli Chubais, noting that the voucher privatisation in the country will end on June 30, 1994, as planned, despite any changes in the situation.

"The post-privatisation operation of enterprises is the key element for us now," he stresses. Therefore, we are increasingly shifting our activities to creating sources of financing privatised enterprises."

The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper describes ongoing military reforms in the country, regarding them as a top priority for the state. "The armed forces have entered the second stage of their restructuring which will end in 1995. It is highly probable that its tasks will be accomplished, despite the difficult economic situation in the country."

The same newspaper carries an interview with the former assistant of the U.S. military attache, retired Lieutenant-Colonel James Halbrook. He noted that Russia's golden age is still ahead.

When Russia, designer of numerous technologies challenging world standards, will gain stability, it will turn into a mammoth Japan, although this comparison, may be, is not very apt, the Lieutenant-Colonel continued.

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper prints an article on stepped-up activities of American diplomacy near Russia's southern borders, stressing that consequences of these activities "can be unpredictable, including for the United States".

The newspaper notes that Washington can "achieve an unheard-of strategic advantage peacefully or with a minimum use of military force. Coming to the region of the post-Soviet south, the United States will turn to be in the rear of several states to which the U.S. has or can have claims (Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, China, Pakistan, India and, of course, Russia)."

The same newspaper informs its readers of a meeting between U.S. ex-president Richard Nixon, now on a private visit in Moscow, and former Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, leader of the Free Russia Party.

Rutskoy said that the party's task should be struggle against authorities with "peaceful parliamentarian means".

The PRAVDA newspaper also reports a meeting between Nixon and Russian Communist Party Leader Gennadiy Zyuganov. It singles out the latter's words that the Russian Communist Party "does not embrace either right-wing or left-wing radicalism and is ready to cooperate with all political forces championing the revival of a strong Russia".

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA calls on the Russian Federation of Independent Trade Unions to step up its activities. In turn, first deputy chairman of this federation Aleksey Surikov writes in the same newspaper what interferes with unions' reformation work.

According to Surikov, these are inner problems and contradictions, on the one hand, and strong outside pressure from authorities and various political movements and parties, on the other.

Nixon Continues Visit Despite Yeltsin Refusal To Meet

LD0903155294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1522 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow March 9 TASS—Former U.S. President Richard Nixon will continue his unofficial visit to Moscow, Dimitri Simes, political scientist accompanying the ex-president, told reporters on Wednesday [9 February].

Thus he rejected media speculations that Nixon decided to cut short his visit after President Boris Yeltsin and some other top officials refused to meet him.

The refusal came after Nixon's extensive contacts with opposition leaders including former Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy amnestied last week.

U.S. Embassy Not Involved in Visit

LD0903172994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 9 Mar 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] The U.S. Embassy in Moscow has no information as to the whereabouts and plans of ex-President Richard Nixon who came to the Russian capital for a visit.

As a high-ranking American diplomat told INTERFAX, the embassy does not monitor private visits. The ex-president came to Russia in a purely personal capacity. He has no contacts with the embassy; he has not informed it of his movements or further plans, the diplomat said.

As INTERFAX learned from the travel agency Connect servicing Nixon's visit, the ex-president will stay in Moscow till about March 16th.

According to a member of the agency directly concerned with the high-ranking guest, his arrival in Moscow is in no way connected with Big Politics or business. Richard Nixon simply likes to visit Russia, meet with Russian people and to see the changes in the country. His present trip to Moscow is neither the first nor the last, he said.

The North-American Department of Russia's Foreign Ministry told INTERFAX that the ministry has nothing to do with Nixon's visit to Moscow.

"The Russian Foreign Ministry would have monitored the ex-president's visit, had the American embassy been in charge of it" a high-ranking Russian diplomat told INTERFAX's correspondent.

According to him, the visit is of "a purely scientific nature". "Nixon's ties with the Carnegie Foundation and with the Fund for Democracy are well known. Evidently the former American president is on a visit in Moscow in connection with these organizations," he said.

Another Russian diplomat interviewed by Interfax's correspondent has a different point of view. "As a retired politician Nixon may allow himself what officials from the Clinton Administration cannot afford. He has already conferred with the Communist leader, Gennadiy Zyuganov, and with the former Vice-President, Aleksandr Rutskoy. Nixon makes no secret of his intention to meet with the Liberal Democratic Party leader, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. All this reflects a striving to "sound out the situation," if not "build bridges," and to clarify what the Russian opposition is like, and whether it is capable of coming to power eventually," he said.

Kostikov Views 'Emotional Situation'

LD1003133394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian President's press secretary, believes a rather inappropriately emotional situation has developed in connection with certain meetings that former U.S. President Richard Nixon had in Moscow. In his today's statement Kostikov says hasty conclusions are being drawn out of a private incident, conclusions that affect the essence of the U.S.-Russian relations.

As the press secretary noted, there can be no question of preventing foreign visitors' contacts with opposition leaders. It is in the Russian Government's interest that the full picture of political life in Russia is known abroad. It was expected that Richard Nixon, a well-known supporter of democratic transformations in Russia, will use his visit to Moscow with such an aim in mind. However, the ex-president's meeting with Aleksandr Rutskoy created a certain context that touched upon the complicated political moments in Russia's internal affairs, the press secretary believes. According to Kostikov, considerable part of the Russian public see Aleksandr Rutskoy as one of the main organizers of the October revolt and a serious threat to democracy and civil accord.

As regards to relations between Moscow and Washington, Boris Yeltsin has repeatedly stated the importance of developing friendly, partner-like ties with the United States, the statement says.

Nixon Adviser on 'Misunderstanding'

LD0903212394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2049 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Former U.S. President Richard Nixon considers Boris Yeltsin's reaction to his meetings with Russian opposition leaders as an "unfortunate misunderstanding," according to Nixon's advisor, Dmitri Simes, who is accompanying him during his visit to Russia. Simes made this statement at a news conference in Moscow Wednesday [9 March].

"We did not know that permission is needed to hold meetings in a democratic country, taking into account the fact-finding character of the visit," Simes said.

As has already been reported, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said this afternoon that neither he, nor his chief of staff, Sergey Filatov, would meet with Nixon. A scheduled meeting between the ex-President and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was also not held.

"This was even more strange as we have received confirmation for the meeting more than once," Simes was quoted as saying.

Simes believes that Yeltsin's reaction was provoked by distorted information he had been given about Nixon's meetings with some prominent figures of the Russian opposition such as the leader of the Communist faction in the State Duma, Gennadiy Zyuganov, and ex-Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy.

Simes said the meeting with Rutskoy could not be planned beforehand as Rutskoy was kept in custody until recently.

According to Simes, the goal of the ex-President's visit was to familiarize himself with "political forces which have weight in Russia and report his findings to the Congress, administration and the American public."

Simes put a special emphasis on the "private and fact-finding character" of Nixon's visit to Moscow. At the same time, he said that Nixon had a telephone conversation with U.S. President Bill Clinton on March 3. He said that Clinton supported the idea of the visit and hoped that Nixon would make an unprejudiced report on the state of affairs in Russia to his administration.

According to Simes, Nixon will have to amend his schedule of meetings in Moscow. "Under the current circumstances," a number of meetings with "many high-ranking members of the Russian leadership" who had said they were ready to meet with the ex-President would be impossible.

At the same time, Simes did not rule out that Nixon could meet with the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

Simes said many Russian government officials took part in the organization of Nixon's visit. The official invitation for Nixon to visit Russia was signed by Security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov.

Meetings With Rutskoy, Zyuganov Viewed

PM1003111194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Boris Slavin: "Nixon's Sounding Out"]

[Text] Former U.S. President Richard Nixon has met with opposition leaders Aleksandr Rutskoy and Gennadiy Zyuganov. In his opinion these meetings are "a positive sign," evidence of the strength and not the weakness of the Russian Government. Although these meetings were unofficial, competent sources assert that U.S. President Bill Clinton knew of them, just as he knew of the planned meeting with V. Zhirinovskiy.

Nixon's talk with A. Rutskoy took place at the general's home. Despite the fact that it lasted about two hours, almost nothing is known about it. Rutskoy is keeping it completely confidential. Just one thing is clear: The talk was conducted around a discussion of the situation in Russia and the opposition's place and role in society. Considering that this is the third meeting between its participants, the talk was quite frank and serious, obviously touching on many personal aspects of Russia's present and future leadership.

So far A. Rutskoy is obviously keeping quiet about the prospects of his future political activity. But I am sure that this silence will end soon and we shall again see Aleksandr Rutskoy as a major figure on the political Olympus.

As for Richard Nixon's meeting with Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Russian Federation Communist Party, here there was far more information. The meeting took place in the State Duma. According to the evidence of the Russian Federation Communist Party Central Executive Committee press service, there was an involved talk about the domestic political and economic situation in Russia, ways of getting it out of the crisis, and the prospects of Russian-U.S. relations. Gennadiy Zyuganov spoke unambiguously of the perniciousness of the shock therapy course and the possibility of a social eruption if it is continued.

As G. Zyuganov put it, the Russian Federation Communist Party will not accept either right or left radicalism and is prepared to cooperate with all political forces which advocate the resurrection of a strong Russia. The resurrection of a renewed Union, in his opinion, is only a matter of time. Gennadiy Zyuganov told Richard Nixon about the Russian Federation Communist Party's extensive contacts with the communist parties of former union republics and countries of remote foreign parts. The Russian Federation Communist Party press service reports that Gennadiy Zyuganov stated the party's readiness to cooperate with representatives of all religions and to promote the resurrection of spirituality and thousand-year-old Russian traditions. As for cooperation with representatives of various religions, the Communists have never rejected it, but that does not mean renouncing atheism.

In his talk with R. Nixon G. Zyuganov expressed the concern of all Russia's patriots at the United States' unvarying course connected with unconsidered support for the executive power unpopular with the people. It is interesting to note that Zyuganov's denunciation of the policy of the penetration of Western mass culture, the cult of violence, and pornography in the mass media met with Richard Nixon's understanding.

Summing up the results of his meeting with the opposition leaders, Richard Nixon told journalists that he is

inspired by the fact that the opposition leaders do not want to change the situation in the country with the aid of force.

Zyuganov Criticizes U.S. View

PM1003101194 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 3

[Communist Party of the Russian Federation Central Executive Committee press service report: "G. Zyuganov Has Met With R. Nixon"]

[Text] Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] Central Executive Committee and leader of the communist faction in the Federal Assembly State Duma, received former U.S. President Richard Nixon 8 March. An engaged discussion took place between them about Russia's internal political and economic situation and the prospects for Russia's development and for the development of Russian-U.S. relations. Having congratulated G. Zyuganov on the CPRF's success in the Russian Federation Federal Assembly elections, R. Nixon asked the leader of Russia's most popular party about his views on ways of extricating the country from the crisis, his assessment of the ruling regime's domestic and foreign policies, the CPRF's international ties, and its attitude to religion.

The CPRF chairman unequivocally stated that the policy of so-called shock therapy is destructive for Russia and fraught with the possibility of social outbursts with unpredictable consequences for the whole world. At the same time, he noted that the Russian Communist Party will accept neither right-wing nor left-wing radicalism and is ready to cooperate with all political forces which stand for the revival of a strong Russia as a guarantor of peace and security throughout the world. "The reconstitution of a renewed Union, in which none of its peoples would have their sovereignty infringed, is only a matter of time," G. Zyuganov emphasized. The first stage in achieving this goal, he said, is to renew all ties between Russia and Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. The whole world will benefit from stability and calm being restored to this area, occupying one-sixth of the globe and packed with nuclear warheads.

G. Zyuganov told R. Nixon about the permanent contacts between the CPRF and former union republics' communist parties and its international ties with more than 100 communist, socialist, social democratic, and other left-wing parties of the Old and New World.

G. Zyuganov also noted that the CPRF and the whole of the Russian patriotic movement are uneasy about the one-dimensional nature of the U.S. approach to the political forces in Russia and the growth of anti-American sentiment in Russian society in connection with Washington's reckless support for the current executive, which is unpopular among the people; but they greet with enthusiasm the recently observed trend whereby the U.S. leadership is trying to gain a deeper understanding of the real situation in Russia. We have an interest, he said, in mutually advantageous cooperation on an equal basis between Russia and the United States, but on the condition that there is respect for the culture and spiritual values of the Russian people and the other peoples of Russia.

Yavlinskiy Meets With Nixon

MK1003091094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 2

[INTERFAX report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Moscow"]

[Text] Russia has a special place in the world, and other countries should pay heed to its stance. This is what Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, leader of the State Duma's "Yabloko" faction, said during his meeting with Richard Nixon, former U.S. president, in Moscow. Yavlinskiy attributed that not only to Russia's nuclear potential, but also to its geopolitical situation. The "Yabloko" leader also spelled out to Richard Nixon his vision of the problems facing economic and political reform in Russia, Western assistance, and the Russian Federation's place in world politics.

Timing of Nixon Snub Criticized

PM1003132194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 7

[Yelena Ovcharenko and Vasiliy Ustyuzhanin commentary under the "Our Commentary" rubric: "Nixon Persona Non Grata to Kremlin"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Russian Federation president said that "Nixon has met with Rutskoy and Zyuganov but the most interesting thing was that he had come to meet with me." After this, Boris Yeltsin noted, "I will not meet with Nixon, and neither the government nor Filatov will receive him." [passage omitted]

Let us try to examine what is happening through the eyes of Moscow officials. Were the amendments which Viktor Chernomyrdin and the Russian Federation president himself caused to be made to Nixon's program evidence of nascent "Great Russian pride"? Maybe, we have become more discriminating and will not now simply rush off and welcome with open arms both overt and covert emissaries from the across the ocean? There is no disputing that not all politicians like sharing the stage with Zhirinovskiy and his crew.

But in that case we are still showing the same political clumsiness through which we are constantly causing blunders in our relations with the United States. We have clearly chosen the wrong time and place to show our dissatisfaction. The opposition is something sacred in a democracy, and it would be bad form to snub some well-known person on a well-known mission—unorthodox though it may be to us—for the sole reason that Washington has woken up to the fact that it had

gotten a fixation with its favorite political figures and has decided to broaden its official appointments book.

Duma Speaker Terms U.S. Talks 'Very Successful'

LD0903190494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin described the talks held in the U.S. by Russia's parliamentary delegation as very successful.

He told INTERFAX that "from the very beginning both sides had succeeded in overcoming the cooling of relations, caused by the recent spy scandal, and that the Americans had agreed that the new Russia could not be responsible for everything that had taken place in the past."

To quote Rybkin, the leaders of the State Duma committees for international affairs, defense, budget and economic policies had established good contacts with colleagues in the U.S. Congress.

He also announced that at the end of March or at the beginning of April Democratic and Republican leaders in the Senate, George Mitchell and Robert Dole, would arrive in Moscow on the State Duma's invitation. At the end of the current year or at the beginning of 1995 Speaker of the U.S. Congress's House of Representatives Thomas Foley is likely to visit Moscow, he said.

Rybkin stated that cooperation with the U.S. was Russia's absolute priority, because the two countries cannot live without one another in the present-day world. "We also assured our American colleagues that we would promote the reforms which are absolutely irreversible," he said

On Wednesday afternoon, the Russian deputies are to meet with President Bill Clinton and Vice President Albert Gore, after which the State Duma delegation will leave for Moscow.

Rybkin, Deputies Meet Clinton, Gore

LD1003094794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0851 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Vanichkin and Vitaliy Chukseyev]

[Text] Washington March 10 TASS—The Russian parliamentary delegation led by parliament speaker Ivan Rybkin had meetings with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Vice-President Albert Gore at the White House on Wednesday [9 March].

Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the committee on international affairs of the State Duma (lower house of the Russian parliament), told ITAR-TASS about the meetings.

The meeting with the U.S. President was a short one, Lukin noted. The president welcomed the delegation and promised to do his best to help develop relations between the U.S. Congress and the Duma.

The meeting with the vice-president was more detailed, Lukin continued. Gore praised the first steps by the Duma and its chairman to create a climate for coordinated legislative work and for national reconciliation.

The sides discussed a wide range of econonmic relations between the two countries. "Describing positively the work of the intergovernment Russian-American commission co-chaired by Gore and Viktor Chernomyrdin, we pointed, at the same time, to several pressing economic problems," the committee chairman said.

Russian legislators stressed that America would make the best contribution to Russian reforms not by counselling but by opening its markets, at least for several years, for Russian goods.

"The vice-president agreed, in principle, with our position, noting that the U.S. Administration is now working on this issue," Lukin added.

The sides also discussed urgent politial questions. The vice-president noted that Americans sometimes painfully react to some events in Russia, regarding them as manifestations of nationalism and imperial aspirations. According to Gore, the point in question is some aspects of the Russian policy towards former Soviet republics.

Lukin said that the Russian lawmakers assured Gore that such worries are groundless, since Russia is more preoccupied not with conquering anybody but with ensuring basic human rights for all people living in those republics.

According to the committee chairman, legislators told the vice-president that Russia does not intend to be a superpower, challenging America everywhere in the world, since "we have many mutual interests".

However, delegation members told Gore that Russia does not want to be a satellite or a second-rate power and that it has its own interests. The vice-president agreed with this point, admitting that, indeed, some people display excessive nervousness over unimportant issues and that it is necessary to work calmly, looking for common interests.

Rybkin Praises Duma as 'Major Reformer'

LD1003101394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0728 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Vanichkin and Vitaliy Chukseyev]

[Text] Washington March 10 TASS—Russian speaker Ivan Rybkin believes that the State Duma (lower chamber of the Russian parliament) is the major

reformer in the country and that it is impossible to promote reforms without civil accord.

"I regard the Duma as the most reforming arm of government in Russia," the speaker said. "It includes three-quarters of the former government. Many came to it from the Russian president's office and occupy key positions in parliament," he continued.

"If you look at parliamentary groups, many of them changed their names. They were joined by bankers, businessmen, lawyers and farmers.

"Therefore, when we start adopting basic laws which will clear up roadblocks in the way of reforms, it will be easier for us than for the former parliament. However, we should understand: we shall not advance further without civil accord and cooperation between the executive and legislative arms of government.

"Therefore, we even do not think about a rollback and reversal of reforms," said Rybkin at a news conference on Wednesday on the results of his parliamentary delegation's visit to Washington.

"Intervals in relations between the legislatures of such big countries as the United States and Russia are inadmissible, and our visit to Washington has shown that this conviction is shared by Russian and U.S. parliamentarians," he added.

"We also discussed the importance of cooperation between the leaders of executive and legislative powers in the United States and Russia as well as judicial authorities, since it is necessary to have a constant contact in the present kaleidoscopically changing world.

"In the near future, U.S. Congress delegations will visit Russia, and the inter-government commission co-chaired by Albert Gore and Viktor Chernomyrdin will hold a very important meeting," the speaker noted.

"The U.S.-Russian constant is partnership and cooperation for the sake of peace and accord on earth, for the sake of difficult reforms in Russia.

"We agreed on many problems, mapped out cooperation programmes and decided that mutual information should be complete and frank to prevent misunderstandings in relations, which arise due to the lack of reliable information."

Lukin Comments on U.S. Meetings

LD0903204994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0040 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Vanichkin and Vitaliy Chukseyev]

[Text] Washington, 9 Mar—Tuesday [9 March] was a busy and intense day on Capitol Hill for the Russian State Duma delegation which is visiting the U.S. capital at the invitation of the U.S. Congress. The Russian parliamentarians, headed by Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma, held meetings and talks with the leaders of the Senate, George Mitchell and Robert Dole, and with Senators Sam Nunn and Richard Lugar. They visited the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, whose chairman is Claiborne Pell. The speaker of the House of Representatives, Thomas Foley, gave an official luncheon in honor of the Russian delegation.

ITAR-TASS correspondents asked a member of the delegation, Vladimir Lukin, who is chairman of the Duma's international affairs committee and a former Russian ambassador to the United States, to comment on yesterday's talks, which were held behind closed doors. He said that a wide range of issues, including both international problems and the state of our economy and budget, were discussed. There was especially great interest in the economic situation in Russia at the meeting with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. A thorough discussion on Bosnia took place. We agreed to coordinate our actions better within the framework of partnership, i.e. coordinating our steps first, then acting, rather than the other way round. On the whole the talks were constructive, there was no suggestion of confrontation, irritation and so on. We have now reached the stage of mature partnership, we have moved on from the days when we agreed in advance to what anyone told us. This fact naturally creates some nervousness here.

In addition to the meetings in Congress, the State Duma delegation also visited the Pentagon, where it was received by U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry. Bearing in mind that the delegation was invited by Congress, wasn't this merely a courtesy call, the ITAR-TASS correspondents asked. No, replied V. Lukin. We were met by a solid team and there were solid talks about problems which concern them - ratification of fundamental treaties, including START-2, accession to the convention on chemical weapons, and open skies.

The ITAR-TASS correspondents asked how united was the position of the Russian parliamentary delegation, given its lack of political homogeneity. V. Lukin said that in his view there are really only two groupings in the Duma. One is geared to constructive and professional work on ending the crisis and to cooperation with all branches of power. The other is interested in chaos. Our delegation, he stressed, was made up entirely of representatives of the first grouping, and the shades of difference between us were secondary. Our prime motivation was to show our American partners that we hail from a single state, that we are Russian patriots and that we are upholding our country's interests, rather than settling internal scores.

The talks and meetings were also attended by Sergey Glazyev, Sergey Yushenkov, Mikhail Zadornov and Galina Klimantova, who are all chairmen of State Duma committees.

Yeltsin: Ames Case Not 'Crucial' to U.S. Relations

LD0903173494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 9 Mar 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by Diplomatic Correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] Asked by INTERFAX on Wednesday [9 March], whether he will receive ex U.S. President Nixon, now in Moscow, Russia's President Yeltsin toughly declared: "No". He added: "Neither the government nor Filatov (the presidential administration chief—IF) will receive him."

"After the meetings that Nixon has had here, this is impossible, and I am glad that U.S. President Clinton shares this view. One should not behave as he pleases in Russia. Russia is a Great country," said Yeltsin.

During his current stay in Moscow, Nixon met with a number of officials, among them Russia's former president Alexander Rutskoy, just released from Lefortovo jail, the Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov, the cabinet member and leader of the Russian Unity and Concord Party's faction in Duma Sergey Shakhray, and the leader of another parliamentary faction Grigoriy Yavlinskiy.

At the same time, Yeltsin stressed that we will do all we can so that what has been gained through Russo-American cooperation should not be lost. This is a very useful plus, and our goal is that at a meeting of the chiefs of the two countries foreign policy departments in Vladivostok (to be held on March 14 - IF), new opportunities will be explored to promote this cooperation."

On the Ames scandal in U.S., Yeltsin said: "Well, it is the intelligence service's business. This is a natural state of relations between any countries, but this cannot be crucial to Russo-American relations."

Yeltsin answered an INTERFAX reporter's question at a wreath-laying ceremony near Gagarin's burial site by the Kremlin wall. The ceremony was held to mark the sixtith birthday of the world's first cosmonaut.

Joint Peacekeeping Exercise Planned with U.S.

LD0903212894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2108 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Belyakov]

[Text] Samara March 9 TASS—A group of Russian officers of the Volga Military District's 27th Motorized Infantry Division returned from the German town of Wurzburg, the headquarters of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Division. The Russian officers had discussed with their American colleagues details of joint manoeuvres of U.S. and Russian peacekeeping forces scheduled for this coming summer.

The military exercises will aim to practice coordinated actions in zones of possible inter-ethnic conflicts. The peacekeepers are to disengage "the warring sides", disarm them, organize observance and patrolling. Also planned are operations for delivering humanitarian aid, protection of "refugee makeshift camps" and some other actions. The peacekeepers will be confronted with complicated tasks difficult to practice in densely-populated western countries. For this reason, the manoeuvres will be carried out near the village of Totskoye in the Orenburg region, the place of the 27th Division's location.

U.S. soldiers will be carried here by their planes and with all their military equipment. General Leonard Holder, commander of the 3rd Infantry Division, has already visited the village and examined the site of the upcoming military exercises. The guests measured the runway at the local air-field and took samples of local air fuel, petrol and lubricants to check out whether they can be used for filling American vehicles.

The U.S. peacekeepers are going to bring about 70 various wheel vehicles, including armoured combat vehicles and trucks, as well as ammunition and foodstuffs. The Russian side will provide engineer support, fuel, partly foodstuffs and bedding.

American "blue helmets" also requested help from Russian pilots, since they need helicopters for the manoeuvres.

Living conditions in the village of Totskoye, situated amidst bare steppes, can hardly be regarded as easy. The exercises are scheduled for the hottest summer month, July. But the commanders of the 3rd U.S. Division assert that their soldiers are accustomed to any conditions. They participated in the operation "Desert Storm" and in the Korean war. And still earlier, the division fought the Nazi Germany. It has been awarded with 38 orders and medals.

The Russian peacekeepers also have much to its credit. The 27th Guards Motorized Infantry Omsk-Novobug Division named after Bogdan Khmelnitsky was formed in 1918. It took part in the Finnish war and World War II, storming Berlin. Then it was part of the Western Army Group. After withdrawing from Germany in 1991, it was deployed in Totskoye. Now the division is practicing peacekeeping operations.

Kozyrev Views Forthcoming Talks With Christopher

LD1003094994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0902 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Boris Krivoshey]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Mar—The partnership which was difficult to achieve must not be allowed to weaken; its content must be specified on the basis of a complete equality of rights and obligations and the partnership

must acquire a mature and strategic outlook. It is in this tone that Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is preparing to hold an open dialogue with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Vladivostok.

The Russian minister stated this today while opening a session of the Foreign Policy Council in Moscow, devoted, in particular, to the problems of European security, questions of relations with NATO, and other international structures.

Kozyrev Calls For Building 'A New Europe'

LD1003140194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1237 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Boris Krivoshey]

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—Russia is set to prevent any weakening of partnership established with the United States, specify its substance on the basis of full equality of rights and duties, give it maturity and strategic orientation in talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on March 14 in Vladivostok, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said here today.

He announced this in his opening address at the meeting of the Council for Foreign Policy, which is due to consider problems of European security, relations with NATO and other international structures.

Kozyrev said it is necessary to begin joint efforts to form strategic partnership in building a new Europe. "President Yeltsin has put forth this initiative, which is now being considered by the leaders of Western countries".

According to the minister, the international community needs an effective mechanism of coordinating actions relating to the most important international problems. He praised the positive changes which have taken place in the movement towards new stability in Europe, including joint military exercises, exchanges of visits along the military line and interaction in the field of conversion.

He said a practical headway has been made towards making former enemies see friends in each other and allies in the perspective. The idea of cooperation with NATO has been given substance in the U.S. concept of Partnership for Peace, which opened a period of drafting and implementing programmes which involve all interested countries on an equal basis.

Russia is close to signing the relevant documents, Kozyrev said.

Along with this Kozyrev noted that "the NATO mania of impatient advocates of joining the alliance, and the partnership executed to the accompaniment of an anti-Russian hysteria can lead to the strengthening of the position of (ultra-nationalist) Zhirinovskiy and his supporters," Kozyrev warned.

Kozyrev said that Partnership for Peace upheld by NATO is pattern of military and political cooperation which cannot replace a wide-scale strategic interaction along all lines oriented towards a perspective. There is no point in overstressing the military-political aspects or contrasting them to the key task of strengthening democracy and human rights in all of Europe as a guarantee of its peaceful future.

Kozyrev rejected attempts of certain circles in the West, central and eastern Europe to "speculate on the Zhirinovskiy factor and revive the image of an enemy in the face of Russia". Those who insist on the thesis of Russian menace begin to believe it themselves. The artificially generated threat makes people blind and prevents them from seeing the real problems of security.

"The victory in the cold war was not won by the NATO military machine but by the democratic principles of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe. It is the CSCE which is bound to win a stable democratic peace in conditions of a post-confrontational Europe", Kozyrev said.

Kozyrev Meets With Croatian, Bosnian Leaders

Kozyrev, Silajdzic Discuss Bosnia

LD0903170294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1647 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Reports by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] The agreement reached between Bosnian Croats and Muslims to form a federation and subsequently establish a confederation with Croatia leaves no one, including Serbs, aside, said the Prime Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Haris Silajdzic, after talks with the head of Russian diplomacy on Wednesday, in answer to a question from Interfax.

According to Silajdzic, "reassuring trends" emerged lately in many directions of a settlement in Bosnia. He said he hopes that the Russian peace-keeping forces stationed in the area of Bosnia's capital will continue to play a positive role and "help Sarajevo become a symbol of peaceful coexistence between the various ethnic groups on Bosnian territory".

The prime minister also noted "the extremely constructive role played by the Russian government, particularly by Foreign Minister Kozyrev and the special envoy of the Russian president, Vitaliy Churkin, in the efforts to reach a settlement in Bosnia." "I hope that in the future they will take an even better-balanced stand. This will only help the process of settlement."

The head of Russian diplomacy described his talks with Silajdzic as a "detailed and open exchange of views concerning the basic aspects of a settlement in Bosnia."

All the parties involved in the conflict are equally close to Russia, he stressed. "Russia is not only a Slavic nation, but also one of the world's biggest Muslim countries. We strongly oppose discriminatory approach to any of the conflicting sides," Kozyrev said.

Kozyrev, Granic Discuss Crisis

LD0903172594 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Report by correspondent Andjelko Perincic for Croatian Radio from Moscow]

[Text] Mate Granic, vice president of the government of the Republic of Croatia and minister for foreign affairs, met his counterpart Andrey Kozyrev in the Russian capital this afternoon. Following one hour of talks, the two ministers addressed the media.

Kozyrev stressed that his country was in agreement with other international factors in its belief that the recent positive climate surrounding the resolution of the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis should be sustained. Minister Granic added that the agenda of their talks included the Washington agreement and the work of the expert commissions in Vienna.

He stressed that the negotiations ought to also include—in addition to the Croats and Muslims—the third side, without which it is impossible to reach a final solution either in Bosnia-Herzegovina or in the entire region. According to Granic, the interlocutors discussed the question of returning Croatia's occupied areas under the full jurisdiction of our state.

[Begin Granic recording] We regard the Russian Federation's role as positive. We also appreciate Kozyrev's personal role, as well as Mr. Churkin's, in these negotiations. We also expect that negotiations with the third side will resume the moment the present negotiations in Vienna are ended. [end record]

Replying to a number of questions raised by the media, Russian Minister Kozyrev reiterated that his country has always favored a global solution in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He also expressed satisfaction with the fact that—following his talks with Granic and earlier in talks with Bosnia-Herzegovina's Prime Minister Silajdzic, who is also staying in Moscow—he has received assurances that the Croatian-Muslim agreement is not to the detriment of the third side.

He also said that no one was officially questioning the internationally recognized borders of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. The Russian minister noted that he had recently talked to Radovan Karadzic about how to save the integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina under conditions of respect. It is the peoples of that country who must decide on its state territory, Kozyrev said.

Speaking about UNPROFOR's [UN Protection Forces] role, he added that Russia was in favor of continuing the mandate of the blue helmets in the conflict areas. This can only be in support of a political solution in the area of the former Yugoslavia. Minister Granic endorsed this view by saying that within the next few days Croatia would demand that the UN Security Council reinforce the mandate of the blue helmets.

Following his talks with Minister Kozyrev, Granic went to a working lunch with Russian President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy for the area of the former Yugoslavia Vitaliy Churkin.

Granic Welcomes Russian Role

LD0903210594 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Good evening, dear viewers. Within his one-day visit to Moscow Mate Granic, the Croatian deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, had a meeting with his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev. Their talks related to all the important elements of the crisis on the territory of former Yugoslavia, particularly the Washington Agreement between the Croats and Muslims, and its results. Elizabeta Gojan reporting from Moscow. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Granic] We had talks on all important problems relating to the crisis on the territory of former Yugoslavia. We had talks on the Washington agreement, its results, the current phase of negotiations in Vienna, and the necessity to include the third party [Serbs] in the negotiations, because without the inclusion of the third party it is not possible to find a final solution for restoring peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and likewise to achieve a global solution to the crisis. We also had talks on UN Protected Areas in the Republic of Croatia and the need for their peaceful reintegration. [passage omitted]

[Granic] We particularly welcome the standpoint assumed by the Russian Federation regarding the territorial integrity of the Republic of Croatia and the need for the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] mandate to secure in practice all that is laid down in the UN Security Council resolutions and to start serious negotiations with the local Serbs.

The Washington agreement is the first important one in the restoration of peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina, whose results can already be seen on the ground. However, it does not resolve everything. There is no final solution without the inclusion of the third side. An agreement which is to be reached between the federation and the third side will determine the content of the confederation. Therefore, all negotiations on the federation should be completed, which will then be followed by negotiations with the third party and the final definition of the content of the confederation.

As the United States played a very positive role in the convergence of views and in the final signing of the preliminary agreement, both in the present phase of the negotiations and... [pauses] As they have backed this

agreement, the Russian Federation can likewise play an extremely positive role in influencing Serbia itself, and the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but also in exercising influence on the Serbs in the UN Protected Areas [in Croatia].

[Gojan] Have you been given some guarantees?

[Granic] Talks will in every case be continued. The exchange of views will also be continued. We have also agreed some further steps. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Churkin Notes Objective Stand on Conflict

LD0903184394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] To form a Muslim-Croat federation and subsequently establish a confederation between it and Croatia is a political, not legal, problem. It is not quite clear to Russia yet how this will be formulated from the legal point of view. The details will evidently be coordinated in the course of further negotiations, the special envoy of the Russian president, Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, told journalists in Moscow on Wednesday.

According to him, Russia continues to support the idea of Muslim-Croat integration. "It will be even better if an interesting legal form, capable of drawing a final solution to the problem nearer, is found," Churkin said.

In comments on the wish that the Russian leadership would "take a better-balanced stand" expressed by the Bosnian Prime Minister, Haris Silajdzic, Churkin said: "The very fact that all Bosnian sides complain from time to time that the stand taken by Russia is not balanced well enough points to its correctness and objectivity."

Italian Foreign Minister Arrives in Moscow

LD0903210994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2037 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Dmitriy Polunin]

[Text] Moscow March 9 TASS—Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta arrived in Moscow on Wednesday to discuss a wide range of topics with Russian leadership.

In a short interview with ITAR-TASS upon arrival at the airport, Andreatta said he had come to Russia in the capacity of chairman of the CSCE Council.

While in Moscow, the Italian diplomat is scheduled to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to consider prospects for cooperation in Europe and ways of settling conflicts in hotbeds of tensions—in former Yugoslavia and the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave.

The talks will also deal with preparations for a high-level meeting of the Group-of-Seven (G-7) highly industrialized countries scheduled to be held in Naples this coming summer.

As compared with the previous forums of this kind, Russia will be a more active participant in the upcoming meeting. Thus, it will be paid more attention during the meeting itself and not only outside it, as it was usually done before. The most important problems facing the present-day world are to be discussed in the presence of the Russian president.

According to Andreatta, Italy as organiser of the Naples summit intends to see to it that these changes be reflected in the forum's final documents. All this is to help Russia become a G-7 full- fledged member and to pave the way for transforming such forums into G-8 meetings.

As chairman of the CSCE Council, the Italian minister will also exchange views with the Russian leadership on Russia's relations with the Baltic republics. Andreatta plans to discuss this issue in Tallinn and Vilnius as well, where he will be going after the Moscow talks.

Kozyrev, Yeltsin Meet Andreatta

LD1003111394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1021 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—"Very close friendly ties exist between Russia and Italy. I think the meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin which has just taken place has set a clear-cut friendly tone in relations and cooperation between Russia and Italy," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyev said today at his meeting with Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs Beniamino Andreatta.

Kozyrev greeted the Italian minister also as a representative of the Group of Seven industrialised countries and president of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Kozyrev stressed that time was ripe for turning the seven into eight, at least in the political sphere. "It is difficult to imagine a situation where any important political problems could be now resolved without Russia's participation," Kozyrev said.

Ukraine Denies Plans To Send Another Nuclear Convoy

LD0903193394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1913 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow March 9 TASS—Ukraine does not intend to send another convoy with 60 nuclear warheads to Russia in the near future, contrary to some media

reports, said a high-ranking official of the Russian Defence Ministry in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Wednesday [9 February].

In particular, he pointed out that the removal of nuclear warheads from Ukraine to Russia for their subsequent dismantling and utilization is being carried out as scheduled and in accordance with a defence capacity of enterprises which will carry out processing. The expert said that during transportation and storage of nuclear warheads at enterprises serious attention is paid to ensuring their safety. At the same time, there is no point in closely watching the movement of each convoy since secrecy during the transportation and storage of nuclear warheads will be fully observed.

The first convoy with nuclear warheads from "Ukrainian missiles" is bound to arrive at its destination in the near future. The destination is not disclosed for reasons of secrecy, but it was announced that in accordance with tripartite Russo-American-U.S. agreements signed in Moscow on January 14, 1994, the warheads will be dismantled for being subsequently processed at one of Russia's enterprises.

Under the agreement, in exchange for the warheads Russia has pledged to supply fuel to Ukrainian nuclear power stations, but not in the form of processed nuclear material obtained from withdrawn missiles. The processing of this nuclear material will take from several months to one year, experts said. The supplies of nuclear fuel to Ukrainian nuclear power stations will be carried out from Russia's fuel reserves.

According to the Russian Defence Ministry, on the Ukrainian territory there are about 1,300 warheads for intercontinental ballistic missiles an over 600 - for cruise land-based missiles. The condition of part of nuclear ammunition causes special concern of nuclear experts which might promote the speediest removal of nuclear ammunition from Ukraine.

Ukrainian Move on Nuclear Warheads Welcome

MK1003085094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 3

[Natalya Pachegina report under the "Security" rubric: "Nuclear Disarmament of Ukraine Gets Under Way. Russian Defense Ministry Expert Cautious in Forecasts"]

[Text] "A practical realization of the trilateral understanding on the nuclear disarmament of Ukraine, reached by the Presidents of the United States, Ukraine, and Russia in the Kremlin on 14 January, has begun," advised a high official in the Russian Federation Defense Ministry with the caution acquired through many months of negotiating. Without naming, for known reasons, the day the "operation" should begin, and very roughly (several months) defining the length of time for withdrawing nuclear warheads from Ukraine, the Defense Ministry general noted that the leaders of the three states had also specified the "equivalency" of exchange—the minimal number (200) of warheads for 100 tonnes of uranium fuel for Ukraine's nuclear power engineering. The "transportation expenses" shall be absorbed in equal portion by both sides—the transportation of the special cargo across the territory of Ukraine shall be paid for by Kiev, the next part of the journey by Moscow. No customs inspection has been envisioned (under the agreement between Ukraine and Russia on the withdrawal of strategic weapons of April 1992, the general said, transportation in a special category with a special cargo is not subject to customs inspection). The protection and security arrangements while the "cargo" is in transit, the specialist vouched, are guaranteed by a tough system of security that includes constant monitoring of progress, provision of all types of communications facilities, and a "cover" by competent organs along the train's route.

A participant in the Russo-Ukrainian talks, the Russian Defense Ministry expert is rather cautious about prognoses regarding the future of the nuclear disarmament process of the Ukrainian state which, he remarked, has not so far added its signature to the document on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons—which in itself does not rule out debates inside Ukraine, in particular in its new parliament, on the question of Ukraine's possessing its own nuclear potential. The "neatness" with which the first stage of partial nuclear disarmament of the neighbors has gotten under way, the expert underlined, evokes the satisfaction of the Russian side.

Gazprom To Adopt 'Tough Stance' at Ukraine Talks

PM0903162994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by Sergey Leskov of IZVESTIYA: "'Gazprom' Gives Ukraine Final Warning and Turns to International Court"]

[Text] Government talks between Ukraine and Russia on questions of gas deliveries begin 10 March in Moscow. On the eve of the talks "Gazprom" representatives confirmed to IZVESTIYA that over the holidays Ukraine continued unilaterally to take 40 million cubic meters of gas per day from the export pipeline. Ukrainian enterprises' overall debt to Russian gas industry workers now tops 1.5 trillion rubles [R].

The problem of Ukrainian nonpayments, which has an acute impact on the situation of the West Siberian gas fields, has periodically flared up over the last two years. Seemingly all the methods of settling the conflict by peaceful means have been tried. If the Moscow talks produce no guarantees of uninterrupted payment for Russian deliveries, then, as your IZVESTIYA correspondent was told by "Gazprom" Deputy Chairman Vladimir Remizov, the company leadership will be forced to turn to the International Court. If this does happen, it will be the first time the former Soviet

republics, finding themselves unable to reach agreement among themselves, have washed their dirty linen in public.

The last agreement between Ukraine and Russia on gas deliveries was signed in February. Ukraine pledged to ensure the transit of 111.5 billion cubic meters of Russian gas to West Europe. Russia is to supply Ukraine with between 50 and 70 billion cubic meters of gas. The breakdown of these agreements is jeopardizing "Gazprom's" far-reaching ambitious plans to break into the European market.

No matter how much "Gazprom" may threaten to take this course, it is technically infeasible to reduce gas deliveries to Ukraine, and the chronic defaulters can effectively pump gas out of the export pipeline to West Europe with impunity. If the Ukrainian leadership's restrictions affect anyone, it is only the enterprises working on contracts with "Gazprom." Although in early March the concern announced a reduction in gas deliveries from 160 million cubic meters to 110 million, in reality this had no consequences for the violators of the convention. As a result pressure in the pipeline on the border with Slovakia fell to danger point. Moreover, Ukraine has managed to pump so much gas into underground storage facilities that it will be more than enough to get through the spring-winter period.

According to V. Remizov, "Gazprom's" tough stance at the Moscow talks will also include a point about Ukraine repaying some of the debts with property in the gas supply system. The concern's leadership is interested primarily in the underground storage facilities that enable Ukraine to withstand the Russian suppliers' financial assaults with no particular problems.

Gaydar Denies Calling on West To Halt Aid

LD0903195494 Moscow Nezavisimoye Televideniye Television in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Yegor Gaydar met journalists today to share his thoughts with them about our economic condition.

[Correspondent Matskaviecus] Yegor Gaydar at his news conference today categorically denied rumors that he had supposedly called on the West not to give financial aid while Chernomyrdin and Yeltsin are in power. The former vice premier stated that the present government has acted erroneously and dishonorably by promising industry money which it is not in a position to pay. The Russia's Choice leader believes that this year's budget is in need of major changes. Gaydar also dislikes the excessive growth of expenditure on the state apparatus and the method of financing the provinces which in the future will lead to discrimination in favor of Russia's northern regions at the expense of the southern regions.

Incidentally, the budget for 1994, according to Deputy Pochinok, who was also present at the news conference, will be adopted at the earliest only in June.

Today, the head of Russia's Choice gave a dignified reply to the premier's fairly harsh words concerning heads of laboratories who jump into ministries, after whose tenure of administration the country is shaking as if in a fever.

[Begin Gaydar recording] Laboratory head is the only scholarly level which I jumped over. I went straight from being the head of research workers to being appointed institute director. The only thing I can say in regret is that he [Premier Chernomyrdin] evidently did not manage to share his ideas with me about laboratory heads and ministers when he was working under my command as part of the Russian Government. [end recording]

[Matskaviecus] The Russia's Choice faction will support the idea of a memorandum on concord, Gaydar said, only if it is convinced that it is not just another fig leaf covering up the political ambitions of individual leaders.

Commenting on Nixon's visit and his choice of people to meet, Gaydar thought that the former U.S. president simply did not have a real opportunity to evaluate the sincerity of one political leader or another. Gaydar himself did not bother to meet Nixon today.

[Begin Gaydar recording] Yes, I postponed our meeting with former U.S. President Richard Nixon in order to make a further study of the situation. [end recording]

Vorontsov Calls For UN Peacekeepers in Abkhazia

LD1003112394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1040 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations March 10 TASS—Russia shares Georgia's position on the need for immediate and active measures by the international community and calls on the Security Council to deploy immediately a peacekeeping force in Abkhazia, Russian Ambassador to the U.N. Yuliy Vorontsov said on Wednesday [9 March] at a Security Council meeting on the situation in Abkhazia.

Vorontsov noted that "the Russian Federation confirms its most serious concern over the continuation of the Abkhazian conflict.

"Outstanding important issues of a political settlement as well as humanitarian problems, above all a return of several hundred thousands of refugees and displaced persons to their homes, create a real threat of a new bloodshed on a large scale.

"To prevent such a tragedy, the international community should take energetic steps to give resolute support for the peace process. We regard it very important for the Security Concil to respond positively to repeated requests by the Georgian leadership and the Abkhazian side on the immediate start of a full-scale peace-keeping operation in the zone of the Abkhazian conflict."

Vorontsov noted further that the Russian Federation "attaches much importance to progress in the negotiating process, including the achieved understanding on a full-scale settlement based on the unconditional respect for Georgia's territorial integrity as well as ensurance of statehood and rights for Abkhazia's multinational people".

"The Russian Government is firmly convinced that it is necessary to deploy immediately a peace-keeping force in the zone of the Abkhazian conflict to stimulate the peace process and to lend it a successful and, eventually, irreversible character.

"It is obvious that the final settlement of Abkhazia's political status is impossible while over 50 percent of its population is outside the republic and active stepts are being made to change Abkhazia's ethnic composition.

"The Russian Federation fully shares the Georgian Government's position that only the deployment of peace keepers in the conflict zone can effectively ensure a ceasefire, guarantee a safe and mass return of refugees and displaced persons to Abkhazia and implementation by the sides of earliers understnadings, including that on disengagement of Georgian and Abkhazian Armed Forces, as well as disarmement and withdrawal of all armed groups which arrived to participate in the conflict from abroad.

"The Russian Federation favours proposals on immediate deployment of peace keepers in the zone of the Abkhazian conflict. Loss of time works against a settlement of the conflict. The international community should prevent a new bloodshed," Vorontsov stressed.

Defense Minister Outlines Agenda for FRG Talks

PM0903204394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Official Visit"]

[Text] Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev has arrived in Germany on an official visit.

In reply to a question by an ITAR-TASS correspondent on what concrete results he hopes to achieve in the course of his visit to the FRG, the Russian defense minister emphasized at the airport: They will primarily be in questions of expanding bilateral cooperation between our countries within the framework of the agreements signed in April 1993. Particular attention will be paid to the education of our servicemen in the FRG and of German servicemen in Russian higher military educational establishments. A number of questions will be discussed concerning German-Russian military-technical cooperation, since part of the military hardware in the Bundeswehr's arsenal was produced here. There is special interest in questions of its modernization and recycling.

Much attention will be paid to the problems of withdrawing the Western Group of Forces from German territory, the Russian military department chief noted in particular.

Yeltsin Representative Delivers Message to 'Arafat

LD1003095294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0709 GMT 10 Mar 94

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Myakishev]

[Text] Rabat, 10 March—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO executive committee, received a message from the Russian leadership in Tunis on Wednesday [9 March]. The message was handed over to the Palestinian leader by Russian President's representative Viktor Posuvalyuk.

The Russian envoy earlier this week had two meetings with Yasir 'Arafat in the Tunisian capital, where the PLO headquarters are situated, on Monday and Tuesday.

The question of a possible adoption by the UN Security Council of a resolution guaranteeing international protection for the Palestinian population on the Israeli-occupied Arab territories and also the problem of the Jewish settlements there were discussed at the meetings.

The PLO insists on such resolution following the killing of more than 50 Palestinians as a result of the terrorist operation by Zionist extremists in a Hebron mosque at the end of February.

Political Issues

Foreign Ministry Receives Bomb Threat

LD1003152394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1416 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By CRIME-PRESS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry received a bomb threat on Thursday and employees are being evacuated from the building in downtown Moscow, according to a spokesman of the Moscow Counterintelligence Department.

"Yes, there is such information. Measures are being taken. Evacuation is under way. Details will be reported later", the spokesman told CRIME-PRESS news agency.

The first alarm was sounded at 15.30 hours (1230 GMT) when employees of the Ministry began calling CRIME-PRESS saying they had heard rumours that a bomb had been planted in the building and accused top officials of concealing the danger.

Bomb Threat 'False' Alarm

LD1003151794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1432 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By CRIME-PRESS for TASS]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Mar—A CRIME-PRESS correspondent was just informed at the press-service of the Moscow Directorate of the Federal Counterintelligence Service that special units have thoroughly checked the premises of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the help of special equipment to find the explosive device. Fortunately, the alarm was false: There is no bomb.

Nevertheless, the quick and efficient evacuation of personnel has proved that Russian diplomats keep their cool under any circumstances.

Yeltsin Comments on Civil Peace, Nixon Visit

LD0903173594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 9 Mar 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 46 (536) Reports by Diplomatic Correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin laid flowers Wednesday to the burial place in the Kremlin wall of the world's first cosmanaut Yuriy Gagarin who would have been 60 on March 9. The president answered questions of journalists, one of whom was an Interfax reporter.

Asked by Interfax's Boris Grishchenko about the civil peace in the country, Yeltsin said,

"I called for civil peace and accord in the presidential message to the Federal Assembly and in my talk to parliament. We must work out an appropriate document on this. An accord must be reached between various parties, movements and branches of authority. This idea was supported by the leadership of the State Duma and the Federation Council, the government and numerous parliamentary groups.

I invited the leaders of these organizations to meet at 10:00 tomorrow, Thursday to agree on working out the document on civil peace and accord. It must be drafted within about two weeks. Then we will decide in what procedure it should be adopted. All strata of our society should contribute to the wording of this document if a genuine civil accord should follow its signing. I hope that this will be so."

He had this to say about his Wednesday meeting the television officials:

"I had a difficult talk with Aleksandr Yakovlev and Oleg Poptsov about political processes in the country as well as television. I had told the Federal Assembly that the first and second channels must be state-owned. This caused what can be described in mild terms as agitation in Ostankino (television center), as far as I know.

I don't think this should be dramatized. In particular, Yakovlev suggests a 'softer' version of the future presidential decree. Poptsov has his own view of the problem. All this can be negotiated. But we must come out with a solution, otherwise we stand to lose state channels to various parties and movements. The channels may be fragmented and bribery may take its toll."

Speaking of the economic situation in the country Yeltsin said, "In the morning I had a thorough talk with Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha, in particular on agriculture.

I am saying this for the first time to the Russian people, the CIS member states and the world: for the first time in three or four decades we will not buy grain abroad at all this year. Somebody can be surprised that we will not buy wool, eiher, because we could never do without imported wool but this year we will. Nor will we buy flax. All Russian processing factories have a good supply of agricultural raw materials. In particular, we have grain of good quality for the spring sowing.

As recently as two years ago many people said that hunger was imminent but now we are in a position to say that the Russians will undoubtedly have enough food. We can discuss variety of foodstuffs and their quality which should be at least as high as in foreign products. We are thinking of more reasonable prices."

Answering questions about the status of the Russo-American relations, in particular the spying scare in the U.S.A., Yeltsin emphasized,

"This has happened on numerous occasions. Every country has an intelligence service. Whoever catches a

foreign intelligence officer wins, those who are caught lose. No dramatic conclusions should be made from such events. I am sure that this will not affect the Russo-American relations.

Now, former U.S. president Richard Nixon met with Rutskoy, Zyuganov and others of this kind. But he came here for a meeting with me.

I appreciate President Bill Clinton's disavowal of Nixon."

Interfax's question: Will you receive the U.S. ex-president?

Yeltsin: No, not after this. He will not be received by the government, either. Nor will [presidential chief of staff] Filatov receive him. Mr. Nixon must know that Russia is a great country which must not be trifled with.

The Americans and we must prepare carefully the Vladivostok meeting of foreign ministers (scheduled for March 14). The Russo-American partnership was not easy to come by and we should not lose it. I am sure that we will not."

Yeltsin Begins Work on Draft Reconciliation Accord

LD1003094394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0855 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent anna melnikova]

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—A meeting has begun in the Kremlin between President Boris Yeltsin and representatives of an array of public and political movements, the Federation Council, State Duma groups and the government designed to draft a memorandum on civil concord and peace in Russia.

"The time of confrontation is over. Russia has embarked on a new path," Boris Yeltsin said in his opening address. He proposed working out a document to bring together all political movements and representatives of the bodies of state authority.

Seeks Support for Civic Accord Memo

LD1003112594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0958 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—"The time of confrontation is over. Russia has embarked on a new path", President Yeltsin said in his opening address at his meeting in the Kremlin today with representatives of different public and political movements, the Federation Council, groups and groupings in the State Duma, and the government.

The meeting, devoted to drafting a memorandum on civil accord and peace in the country, was attended by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Russian Orthodox Church Chief Patriarch Aleksey, Constitutional Court Chairman Nikolay Vitruk, representatives of parliamentary groups Russia's Choice, Communists of Russia and the Agrarian Party, as well as of the Miners Independent Trade Union.

The president called for drafting a document to bring together all political movements and representatives of the state power. According to him, "the programme of any party, be it communist or democratic, contains provisions concerning problems of importance for the entire country and care for each Russian citizen". These common provisions should be summarised and incorporated in the memorandum on civil accord and peace.

President Yeltsin said a working group should be set up to draft the text of the memorandum. He suggested that the group be made up of five people with Boris Topronin, co-chairman of the president's public chamber, as its head.

According to the president, the working group should draft the memorandum and submit it for discussion in two weeks. He said he expected every party and public movement to consider the draft.

The president also proposed that participants in the meeting discuss a mechanism of adopting the memorandum on civil concord and peace. "It is necessary to involve the widest possible range of representatives of parties and public movements in the signing of this document," President Yeltsin said.

Prosecutor Protests Dismissal of Coup Plotters' Case

LD0903180494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1754 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow March 9 ITAR-TASS—Russia's Deputy Prosecutor General Eduard Denisov appealed against the decision by the Supreme Court's Military Collegium to dismiss the case of the August 1991 coup plotters. The decision was prompted by the parliament's notorious resolution of February 23, 1994, on a sweeping political amnesty.

Denisov argues that the Military Collegium's decision does not comply with the Criminal Processual Code of the Russian Federation, which demands that once initiated, any proceedings in court should be carried though and end with passing a verdict of either "guilty" or "not-guilty".

Lefortovo Prison Placed Under Yerin's Control

MK1003084094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Hold the Front Page!" rubric: "'Lefortovo' Goes to Yerin"]

[Text] The Lefortovo remand unit has remained in joint possession the Federal Counterintelligence Service and the General Prosecutor's Office for only one week.

MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS reported earlier that as of 22 February, Lefortovo prison had been placed under the jurisdiction of the General Prosecutor's Office while remaining on the Federal Counterintelligence Service's books. Now Yeltsin's secret directive hands over Lefortovo remand unit, as of 1 March, to the financial care of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. From now on, the Ministry of Internal Affairs owns all Lefortovo property—the building, weapons, and vehicles used in the remand unit. Simultaneously, all Lefortovo personnel have been transferred to serve in the Ministry of Internal Affairs system.

This decision was of course called for by the recent scandal around the release of the October revolt leaders from the prison. Yeltsin seems to want the prison to be controlled in the future by people he trusts explicitly—that is, [Internal Affairs Minister Viktor] Yerin and his team.

Correction to Financial-Budget Administration Edict

PM1003113794

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Yeltsin Edict on Financial-Budget Administration," published in the 9 March Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT, p. 11: Column two, from first paragraph, only sentence make read: ...the present Statute. [new graf] In implementing the... (deleting extraneous numeral "3")

Military Issues

Yeltsin Said To Back Kokoshin Defense Spending Plea

MK1003092094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 1

[Pavel Felgengauer report under the "Defense" rubric: "Russian Army Suffers Defeat in Budget Struggle. Defense Ministry Threatens Loss of 'Control Over the Armed Forces'"]

[Text] The Armed Forces' chiefs believe that the 1994 budget proposed by the government will bring about a catastrophe unless defense expenditures are approved according to the existing official draft. At a recent (not expanded and closed-door) government meeting, First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin said "at the request of the defense minister and the ministry's collegium" that "neither the country's defense capability nor the maintenance of the defense industry will be possible at this level of financing. Clearly, the trend is toward the loss of control over the Armed Forces."

In 1993, the defense budget was 7.1. trillion rubles [R] (taking into account repeated indexations), but actual military expenditures were greater, so by year's end the Defense Ministry owed suppliers and its own staffers R2.2 trillion. Defense Ministry representatives think that if the current inflation rate (around 1,000 percent a year) holds on, at least R80 trillion will have to be spent on the maintenance of the Armed Forces.

The new budget earmarks R37.1 trillion rubles for defense, which accounts for approximately 20 percent of the budget expenditures. Andrey Kokoshin claims that this amounts to a more than two-fold decrease in actual expenditures. In 1992, when market reform began, the government slashed its defense orders by 67 percent. At the time, the government assured the Defense Ministry, however, that there would be no new drastic cuts, and that the level of defense appropriations would remain unchanged until 1995. Now the plans for military reform, personnel and arms procurement cuts that were drawn up in view of a certain amount of financing are in jeopardy.

Government orders for arms procurements in 1994 have already been approved, but Defense Ministry specialists estimate that its implementation will cost R28.3 trillion, whereas the draft budget calls for only R5.5 trillion. The Defense Ministry is drawing up an official letter to the government demanding that: first, that the cessation of armaments production in Russia be openly declared; second, that the 1994 government defense orders be canceled; and third, that contracts with enterprises for the supply of weapons be abrogated.

Andrey Kokoshin believes that the implementation of the draft budget will result in the closure of over 3,000 military-industrial enterprises; as a consequence, around 4 million people will be out of work, 15 million of their family members will be left without a living, and many Russian "defense" cities will turn into social disaster areas. Moreover, the army will have to fully stop signing up soldiers under contracts, and also urgently to discharge from service 400,000 servicemen (over 20 percent of the entire strength). Half of them are officers and warrant officers, who will have to be discharged without legitimate service benefits and accommodation.

The struggle for the budget continues, and each department, according to an old Soviet tradition, is trying to grab as much as it can. The Defense Ministry is currently losing to more influential sectoral lobbyists. But the Armed Forces have yet another, last argument in store. SEGODNYA has learned that the president has written on General Grachev's letter stating the army's budget arguments: "I share the defense minister's concern. I ask you to weigh everything one more time. A solution should be sought without detriment to Russia's defense capability."

Semenov Views Problems of Ground Forces

LD1003101494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1930 GMT 9 Mar 94

[From the "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] Russia's ground forces remain the basis of Russia's Army. However, the outlook for their development is unclear. That is how Colonel General Vladimir Semenov, commander in chief of ground forces, has described the present position of the units and subunits in his charge. According to him they do not possess at present even the minimum means for further development. The commander in chief is particularly concerned about the residual principle of providing personnel for the ground forces. In Vladimir Semenov's opinion the ground forces must in the longer term become mobile, well managed, and able to carry out any assignment.

Federal Assembly

Leaders Resist Joining Partnership for Peace

LD0903184194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] The head of the State Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament, Ivan Rybkin, and the chairmen of the State Duma International Affairs and Defense Committees, Vladimir Lukin and Sergey Yushenkov, have met U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry.

Yushenkov told Interfax the meeting, which took place in the Pentagon on Tuesday and lasted an hour, had focused on the possibility of Russia's participation in NATO's Partnership for Peace program, seen as a preparatory stage for membership of the North Atlantic alliance.

Perry "did not deny that the program provides for the future standardization of weapons according to NATO technology," Yushenkov said. He believes that, in view of this and since "the framework agreements were drawn up without our participation and do not conform to the status of Russia," the State Duma must protest against Russia's joining the program, despite the fact that most East European countries have either joined it or stated their intent to do so.

But there was complete mutual understanding on the other two issues, the situation in the former Yugoslavia and the future ratification of the START-II treaty, Yushenkov said. It was also agreed that Perry would meet State Duma members during his end-of-March visit to Moscow.

Duma To Debate Reforms, Other Issues

LD0903164794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1457 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow March 9 TASS—Parliamentary hearings, a form of parliamentary work which withstood the test of time and without which lawmaking in reformed Russia cannot exist, are being held increasingly often by deputies of the Russian State Duma.

In mid-March, Russian lawmakers are scheduled to hold debates on problems of reform of the local government in the Russian Federation. Apart from lawmakers, parliamentary hearings will be attended by representatives of the president's administration, the Central Electoral Commission, bodies of state power of the subjects of the Federation and local governments.

Parliamentary hearings on "efficient social policy under conditions of economic reforms" are expected to be held at about the same time and will be attended by members of the government, heads of ministries and departments, representatives of trade unions and scientists.

Parliamentary hearings on the concept of "Russia's transition to a model of stable development" are scheduled for the second half of March. These debates will be held by parliamentary committees for the use of nature and natural resources and ecology.

Russian mps are expected to hold parliamentary debates on the results of privatisation of state-run and municipal enterprises in the Russian Federation in the period between 1992-1993. During these debates Russian lawmakers will discuss a state programme of privatisation of state and municipal enterprises in Russia. These debates will be organized by the Duma Committee for Property, Privatisation and Economic Activities.

Regional Affairs

Filatov Rejects Reports on Chechnya Talks

LD0903174494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1726 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow March 9 TASS—Sergey Filatov, Russian president's chief of staff rejected media reports that talks between Russia and its self-style Republic of Chechnya have started. Filatov told ITAR-TASS on Wednesday [9 March] that indeed he met Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev's representatives during his latest visit to the North Caucasus. At that meeting Filatov expressed Russia's viewpoint on the necessity to sign with Chechnya a powers-sharing treaty as it had been done with Russia's another ethnic Republic of Tatarstan. But no response from Dudayev has followed as yet, Filatov said.

Some Lipetsk Oblast Elections 'Invalid'

PM1003113594 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by own correspondent Vladimir Toporkov: "Voting with Their Feet"]

[Text] Lipetsk—Complete lack of confidence in the new electoral system instituted by the president's edict can describe the results of the elections to the Lipetsk Oblast deputies' assembly. Tormented by excessive prices and mass unemployment in Lipetsk (perhaps not a single enterprise is working at full capacity) and by notorious privatization as a result of which some have become multimillionaires but most have become impoverished, at the elections people voted "with their feet." The elections were not valid at one of the oblast center's 15 electoral districts. And that despite the fact that the "pass level" was lowered to 25 percent.

For the same reason the elections to the city assembly were also invalid. Yet here it was the "city fathers," the head of the administration and his deputies, the leaders of industrial enterprises, and new capitalist gentlemen who were running for the majority of districts.

The same attitude toward the new organ of oblast power was displayed in Yelets, where not a single candidate got through either, because voters failed to turn out. Thus elections were valid in only 19 out of 38 districts. But even in those districts, mainly rural ones, where the elections were successful, the turnout was scarcely more than 50 percent. On behalf of whom will the victorious candidates resolve legislative questions if most often only 15-20 percent of the population voted for them?

Shumeyko Seeks Law on Kaliningrad Status

LD0903214094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2128 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Biryukov]

[Text] Kaliningrad March 10 TASS—The fact that the 50-year Potsdam agreements will expire next year calls for immediate passage of a special law on the status of the Kaliningrad region, Speaker of the Parliament's Upper House Vladimir Shumeyko said in a televised speech here on Wednesday night.

He stressed the need for legally confirm that the Kaliningrad region, Russia's most western area separated from the rest of the country by Lithuania and Belarus, belongs to Russia as successor to the former Soviet Union, to which the region was handed over after World War II as part of former East Prussia. At present, the Kaliningrad region's population makes up about one million Russians.

Shumeyko also pointed to another aspect of the problem, that of a greater autonomy and economic freedom the enclave should gain to ensure for its residents living conditions comparable with those in the rest of Russia.

The house speaker intends to employ the Federation Council's right for a legislative initiative and move a law on the Kaliningrad region's status in the parliament's lower house, the State Duma, which certainly has no doubts about the region's belonging to Russia.

Chernomyrdin, Chubays Visit Nizhnyy Novgorod

LD1003114194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1016 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS—Vice prime minister and head of the state property committee Anatoliy Chubays and Vice Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveruykha are accompanying Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in his one-day working visit to the Nizhnyy Novgorod region.

According to the programme of the visit, the head of the Russian Government will visit the district centre of Gorodets, the collective farms named after Kuybyshev and the 60th anniversary of the October revolution and will attend a land auction. He is expected to take part in a conference of heads of local administrations from some 50 regions, which will discuss the Nizhnyy Novgorod model of the land reform.

In Nizhnyy Novgorod Chernomyrdin will have a meeting with senior officials of the local administration and people's deputies. In the evening he will return to Moscow.

'Chamber of Nationalities' Established

PM1003100994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 1

[Nikolay Gritchin report: "Nalchik Will Have Its Own Chamber of Nationalities"]

[Text] Nalchik—Developing Russian President B. Yeltsin's edict, Kabardino-Balkaria's President V. Kokov has issued his own edict envisaging the restoration of the Elbrusskiy and Cherekskiy Rayons in the republic's foothills that existed prior to 1944—rayons with a predominantly Balkar population.

This edict orders the formation of a Chamber of Nationalities within the republic's current parliament in which the republic's three main peoples—Kabards, Russians, and Balkars—would have equal representation. The edict was read out during a sorrowful meeting of the republic's public to mark the 50th anniversary of the deportation of the Balkar people. It was also decided henceforth to celebrate 28 March as the day of the Balkar people's return home. It has been declared a day off in the republic. Experts think that these measures will stimulate the economic, social, and cultural development of Balkaria's population centers.

International Affairs

Navy Chief: Transfer of Ships to Russia Rejected

WS0903163794 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] In an interview with foreign reporters, Ukrainian Navy Commander Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy has stated that our state is no longer considering the possibility of transferring to Russia the Ukrainian share of Black Sea Fleet ships as payment of the debt for oil and gas. The Navy commander said that the protocol signed in Massandra was a protocol of intentions. This has never been a solution. According to Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy, this issue has been studied and rejected. The transfer to Russia of our share of the fleet is no longer discussed. Instead of this, the commander added, the two sides agreed to set up a committee for compiling an inventory of ships and other fleet property for their further division in accordance with earlier agreements between the presidents of the two states. Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy believes that the fleet should be divided equally by the end of 1995.

Part of Debt for Russian Gas Supplies Repaid

LD0903164494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1555 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow March 9 TASS—Ukraine has remitted seven million dollars to the current account of the Russian "Gazprom" enterprise on Wednesday [9 March] to repay part of its debt for gas supplies, said Vladimir Podmarkov, chief engineer of "Gasprom" central dispatcher department, in an interview with ITAR-TASS.

Podmarkov said that this amount is incompatible with the total amount of debt exceeding a trillion roubles by now, but shows that Ukrainian consumers make efforts to repay their debts.

Options for the full repayment of Ukraine's debt will be discussed on Thursday with Ukrainian representatives, Podmarkov said. The Ukrainian delegation which will negotiate the issue is expected to arrive late on Wednesday.

Party Leader's Charge of Russian Bases Denied

MK1003112094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric]

[Text] On 9 March, the Ukraine Defense Ministry press service came forward with a denial of a statement made by Anatoliy Lupynis, leader of the Ukrainian National Assembly. A. Lupynis alleged that Ukraine's military agency had prepared, for the talks between L. Kravchuk and B. Yeltsin, a draft document on the creation on Ukrainian territory of military bases where Russian Federation laws are to be in force. The denial says that A. Lupynis' statement has nothing in common with reality because "such a thing contravenes Ukraine's current legislation, and therefore even a supposition that the military agency was preparing or considering the possibility of such drafts is groundless." The Defense Ministry press service explains the appearance of Lupynis' statement by the acute election struggle, where "some political leaders are trying to increase their political capital by compromising the Armed Forces."

Shmarov Declines Comment on Sending Warheads to Russia

LD0903205894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1942 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Valeriy Shmarov declined to confirm reports that a second train loaded with nuclear munitions had left Ukraine for Russia on March 9.

"Information of this kind is extremely confidential as shipping such freights entails necessary security measures," he told Interfax-Ukraine.

"It would be desirable if people handling these processes on both sides did not create tense situations in future," Shmarov said. He added that "professionals did their best to ensure the security of the shipment and make sure the freight arrives at its destination by the shortest possible route."

Ukraine has not received nuclear fuel from Russia as envisioned in the trilateral statement by the U.S., Ukrainian and Russian presidents. The only thing the Ukrainian leadership received was a telegram from Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin stating that the Russian government would start the supplies before the end of this month.

U.S. Grants Government Credit for Agrarian Needs

LD0903232294 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2230 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev, 9 Mar—Yuriy Karasyk, Ukraine's minister of agriculture and food, has reported that a result of the visit by a Ukrainian Government delegation to the United States was, in particular, the signing of agreements on Ukrainian-U.S. cooperation in the agrarian sector, [agreements] on a commission of experts, and on opening credit lines. An adviser on agrarian issues will come to Ukraine from the United States in April within the framework of these agreements. Twenty million dollars of concessionary credit will be handed over to Ukraine to purchase soya and so will 40 million dollars of commercial credit (at an annual interest rate of five percent) for other agrarian sector needs.

Crimea Government Charged With 'Inaction'

LD0903140194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1146 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Russia's noted economist Evgeniy Saburov has charged the former Crimean government with inaction, with trying to bring about an economic crisis in the Crimea and with trying to discredit its President Yuriy Meshkov. Saburov, who had accepted Meshkov's offer to lead the Crimean government, made this statement in an interview with Interfax upon his return to Moscow from the Crimea, where he had stayed from February 22 through March 5.

In his words, astounded by Meshkov's election to the presidency, Crimea's ex-premier and his deputies "have deliberately wrapped up all their affairs despite the need to organize the spring sowing campaign, prepare for the summer holiday season and resolve many urgent problems."

"Thus, displeased with the popular vote in Meshkov's favour, the former Crimean leadership was ready to doom the Crimeans to hunger and cold which is nothing but political wickedness," Saburov declared.

At the same time, he pointed to Meshkov's growing popularity among Crimean industrialists, "whose initial reaction to his election was cautious."

Saburov underscored the danger of trying to make the Crimea submit to Ukraine by force. In his words, demands to resume ties with Russia are not nationalist by nature, yet they are essential since "Crimea's economy is oriented towards Russia rather than Ukraine," and the rupture of ties with Russia would be a disaster for Crimea.

In Saburov's opinion, "with all the contradiction" in the law on the delimitation of powers between Ukraine and Crimea, "it is lucrative to Kiev, Simferopol, and Moscow alike." "If Kiev refrains from mounting barriers deliberately, he remarked, the Crimea could play the role of a bridge between Ukraine, Russia, and other former USSR republics."

He gave assurance that in forming a Crimean cabinet he would rely on knowledgeable economists and responsible executives. "The selection process will be tough," he declared.

Saburov noted that "a good understanding and interaction" had emerged between him and Meshkov. Speaking about the current situation in the Crimea, he said that the democrats there were trying to build a smooth democratic market economy."

"Inside the Crimea, there are tough problems, but the problem of the Crimea is nonexistent," Saburov declared. In his view, the Crimea is a trump card for outside politicians. "I least of all mean Kiev," he added.

According to the Crimean Constitution, the president is simultaneously the head of the republic's cabinet, and his deputy and other cabinet members are appointed by parliament.

So far there has been no official decree on the appointment of Saburov to the post of deputy premier.

National Affairs

Zhirinovskiy Said To Agree To Observe Elections

WS1003105694 Lvov POST-POSTUP in Ukrainian 0945 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Volodymyr Brun, a candidate for the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet in the 419th constituency, has recently had a telephone conversation with Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia. The latter, according to Volodymyr Brun, has accepted his invitation to come to Cherkassy as an international observer in the 27 March elections and said that he will try to find time for him.

As Volodymyr Brun has already stated, he is going to visit Moscow to also invite [former Russian Vice President] Aleksandr Rutskoy, Albert Makashov, Viktor Varennikov [perpetrators of the 1991 coup in Russia], and [former Defense Minister] Dmitriy Yazov to act as observers.

New Reform Bloc To Focus on Stabilizing Economy

LD1003105294 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] A Reform Bloc for the People [Blok Reform Dlya Narodu] has been set up in Ukraine. Leading specialists from various sectors of the economy and specialist practitioners from 12 of the main regions of our country are in the bloc. The purpose of the newly created bloc is to stabilize the economy by conducting real market reforms, to increase the income of the populace by reforming the financial and currency system, and also by reducing nonproductive expenditure in the budget, to campaign against crime and corruption, and to protect the rights, property, and dignity of each individual by conducting constitutional, judicial, and law enforcement reforms. Volodymyr Lanovyy, a well-known economist in Ukraine and president of the center for market reforms, heads the bloc.

Belarus

Plan Submitted to 'Drastically Change' Republic's Policy

LD0903174994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 9 Mar 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 46 (536): Reports by Diplomatic Correspondents Dmitry Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaly Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] As Interfax has learned from a credible source, copies of a plan to drastically change the republic's policy have been sent to parliament and government. The plan was drafted by independent centers for political intiative with a group of leading political scientists and economists taking part.

According to the draft, "if documents on the integration of the monetary systems of Belarus and Russia are not signed by mid March through the Russian leadership's fault", Belarus will immediately start building up its frontier with Russia, will introduce a national currency (by available information, money bills were printed in Germany long ago and are currently stocked in the republic - IF), and will impose heavy custom duties on all Russian commodities transported across Belarus.

However, the key points of the program are those that presuppose "energetic steps to be taken by Belarus to set up an alliance of Baltic and Black Sea States". Such an alliance would unite Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, and a number of East European countries and would possibly be maintained by NATO as a "buffer" between Russia and Western Europe.

The plan provides for closer ties between Belarus and NATO up to a revision by the country of its proclaimed neutrality and a withdrawal of all the Russian troops deployed in Belarus by the end of this year.

Besides, the draft envisages dismantling the key Russian strategic facilities at Vileika and Gantsevich at an early date. By military experts estimates, the dismantlement would do more than 150 Tn [Trillion]-rubles-worth damage to Russia and would disorganize the management of sveral Russian fleets, the nuclear-submarine fleet included.

The Belarusian Prime Minister's Spokesman Vladimir Zametalin has neither confirmed nor denied the existence of such a program. He told Interfax that "Russia's unjustified stalling with signing the documents on the formation of a monetary union for improper reasons make the Belarusian leadership weary and compels it to plan steps in advance."

Bank Says Russian Unification Terms 'Unacceptable'

LD1003112294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Stanislav Bogdankevich, the chairman of the National Bank of Belarus, has said that the new terms being put forward by the Russian side for the unification of the two countries' monetary systems are unacceptable. This primarily concerns a return to clearing, the elimination of the National Bank of Belarus and, as a consequence, the direct refinancing of Belarusian banks by the Central Bank of Russia and Central Bank provision of loans to the Belarus Government.

Speaking at a news conference, Bogdankevich stressed that not one of these points—as well as a number of others—was in the agreement signed between Belarus and Russia on 5 September 1993.

Given this turn of events, the chairman of the National Bank believes that it is essential for politicians to invite in the experts to work out a joint decision, since private meetings between the two premiers are unproductive. After every such meeting, the demands of Russian experts become increasingly tough. If, however, the Russian side is ready to return to the already agreed position, then Belarus will not delay in joining the single ruble zone, Bogdankevich stated.

Shushkevich Favors Monetary Merger, Opposes Strike

WS0903101194 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] On 8 March, Stanislav Shushkevich, ex-speaker of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet, visited Soligorsk. Regardless of the holiday, city residents filled the Miners' Palace of Culture to almost full capacity. The ex-speaker declined to straightforwardly answer questions from the audience of whether his recent trips to Belarusian cities mark the beginning of his presidential campaign. However, he did say that democratic forces in the Republic should nominate a single candidate for the upcoming elections to secure a greater probability of victory. Stanislav Shushkevich also spoke positively of the unification of the Russian and Belarusian monetary systems, as well as of the economic achievements of the Baltic countries. Despite discontent with the policy of the government and Supreme Soviet, the former Supreme Soviet chairman spoke against a political strike with plant and factory stoppages.

Defense Ministry Discusses Army Reductions

WS0903145894 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] A military and technical concept for developing weapons and military equipment until the year 2000, as well as a state armaments program, have been discussed

at a meeting of the Defense Ministry Collegium. Participants in the meeting stated that the second stage in scaling down and restructuring the Belarusian Army was completed in 1992 to 1993, which brought the size of the Belarusian Armed Forces down to nearly the levels specified by international agreements. Again noted were difficulties with recruiting enough troops, caused by the specific demographic situation in Belarus, the Chernobyl aftermath, and the anti-Army campaign launched by some media.

Hryb Discusses Ties With Romania's Iliescu

WS0903100894 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0800 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslav Hryb has held a working meeting with Romanian President Ion Iliescu, who stopped over in Minsk on his way to Seoul. During the meeting, questions of bilateral relations and international cooperation were discussed. Participants in the meeting expressed mutual interest in the broadening of economic, political, and cultural ties between the two countries. According to the Supreme Soviet Press Service, President Iliescu invited Mechyslav Hryb to visit Romania. The meeting was attended by First Deputy Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kuznyatsow, Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanka, and other officials.

Moldova

Yeltsin To Send Envoy To Solve Dniester Conflict

AU0903214494 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Cristian Nita report from Chisinau]

[Text] The prosecutor of the Republic of Moldova, Dumitru Postovan, has taken steps to have Ilie Ilascu, who was elected deputy to the Parliament of Moldova, released. Immediately after Ilie Ilascu was elected as a deputy, I officially intervened with Sergey Leontiev, chief of the Grigoriopol executive, where the prison is located, Mr. Postovan told the BASAPRESS agency.

According to the same source, the prosecutor of the Republic of Moldova specified that, although in his intervention he mentioned the responsibility for violating Ilascu's status as a deputy, one cannot count on a serious answer, because only on the basis of special authority granted by parliament can one conduct negotiations with the anti-constitutional bodies in Tiraspol.

BASAPRESS points out that the president of the self-proclaimed Dniester republic, Igor Smirnov, said a few days before the 27 February elections that the Tiraspol authorities will not recognize Ilie Ilascu's parliamentary immunity.

The Central Electoral Commission is working on the last specifications regarding the final results of the 27 February elections, a commission spokesman told BASAPRESS today. According to legal provisions, within 24 hours the final results will be submitted to the Constitutional Court, which, in turn, will confirm the legality of the elections within 10 days.

The duties of the Central Electoral Commission will expire after the validation of deputies' mandates and the setting up of the new parliament.

Also in connection with the 27 February elections, the electoral Bloc of the Socialist Party and the Edinstvo Unity Movement declared that it has a lot of information regarding numerous violations of the law during the elections.

According to the (?INFOTAG) news agency, this electoral bloc submitted a notification to the Supreme Justice Court, which stresses that all these violations have essentially distorted the ballot results to the detriment of the Bloc of the Socialist Party and the Edinstvo Unity Movement.

Notifications to this effect were also submitted to the Central Electoral Commission, as well as to the justice bodies in all the districts of Chisinau, the INFOTAG news agency specifies.

By the middle of the current month, a representative invested with the full power of the president of the Russian Federation is expected to arrive in Chisinau to coordinate the measures of settling the conflict in the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova, the INFOTAG news agency reports.

According to the same source, the ambassador in charge of special missions, Vladimir Vasev, will be President Yeltsin's representative in the Republic of Moldova.

Political observers view Vladimir Vasev's arrival as a positive reaction to the results of the recent parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova, INFOTAG emphasizes.

Poll Should End Debate on Unification With Romania

PM0903201394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 3

[Svetlana Gamova report: "Moldova: Idea of Unification With Romania Rejected Once and for All"]

[Text] Chisinau—A national sociological poll conducted 6 March has confirmed the results of the parliamentary elections: 90 percent of the citizens who took part in the poll expressed support for independence, territorial integrity, and the unity of state borders.

The poll will probably put an end to debates centered not only on the degree to which unification with Romania is sensible and historically justified, but also on what to

actually call the people. Victory for the Agrarians in the parliamentary elections and the attendant insurance for the "Counsel with the People" policy being conducted by them have clarified this question: The state bears the name Moldova, Moldovans live in it, and they speak Moldovan. It seems that the epithet "Romanian," having dominated all spheres of republic life in recent years, is on the way out. The Agrarians also promise to review the national anthem, which is identical to that of Romania. What is Romania's reaction to this unexpected turn of events in Moldova? A group of eminent representatives from the Moldovan intelligentsia sent a protest to the United Nations assessing the negative backlash on the part of the Romanian press and certain political movements as interference in Moldova's domestic affairs.

Using the results of the poll, the parliamentary majority will doubtless push a decision on the status of the southern and eastern regions through the legislative body even before a new constitution is adopted.

But although a draft law on the Gagauz question has already been agreed, dialogue with the Dniester Region has yet to begin, and it will not be easy. The Tiraspol authorities are interpreting the majority of that region's inhabitants' non-participation in the elections to the Moldovan parliament, and subsequently in the national poll too, as a declaration of the region's own statehood. However, the hope was expressed in the Dniester Region that with the victory of the Agrarian Democratic Party relations between Chisinau and Tiraspol will alter radically, and Moldova will "embark on a constructive path."

The first session of the new parliament is expected to ratify the agreements on the CIS.

With the defeat of the idea of unification with Romania, a number of ministers are expected to leave, first and foremost the ministers of culture and education, and the head of the languages department. The most extreme activists of the People's Front are represented in the leadership of these departments.

Snegur Comments on Results of Poll

AU1003081694 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0500 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] According to final results released by the republican commission in charge of preparing and unfolding the sociological poll "What People Advise" in the Republic of Moldova, 75.1 percent of the citizens who have the right to vote had cast their vote in the poll.

Our Chisinau correspondent Cristian Nita reports that, out of the total respondents, 95.4 percent gave an affirmative answer to the question on the voting card, 2 percent gave a negative answer, and 2.6 percent of cards were not valid.

The President of the Republic of Moldova Mircea Snegur stated after the results had been announced that in this way an end is put to all speculations that have been circulated so far and stressed that the Republic of Moldova has one single future, that of an independent, united, and indivisible state.

Commander Sees Dim Prospects for Early Troop Pullout

WS0803150094 Kiev KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 3 Mar 94 p 3

[Interview with Aleksander Lebed, commander in chief of the 14th Russian Army, by Rostislav Khotin and Dmitriy Mosiyenko in Tiraspol; date not given: "Not Long Ago We Were Citizens of One State, Therefore We Can Gain an Understanding More Quickly and Easily Than Any Americans, Germans, and Englishmen..."]

[Text] General Lebed, 43, is one of the most prominent stars on the military horizon of the former Soviet Union. A regular officer with 25 years of experience and an Afghan War veteran, he consolidated his position and influence both in Moldova and Moscow during the armed conflict between Kishinev and Tiraspol in 1992. This is why he can take the liberty of making judgments that do not become military officials, and particularly commanders of foreign troops... People have different opinions about General Lebed, ranging from a boorish soldier to a man capable of replacing Pavel Grachev. General Lebed gave an interview on the eve of legislative elections in Moldova at the 14th Russian Army Headquarters in Tiraspol, sitting under the Russian flag and a large poster depicting the Kremlin. We preserved the general's style of speech throughout the interview.

[KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Comrade commander, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur said he would press for the complete withdrawal of Russian troops from Moldova in 1994...

[Lebed] I got you. As they say, desires do not always match abilities. When I am asked whether it is good when the Army of one state is on the territory of another state, I answer "no." Should it be pulled out? Yes, it should.

When it should be pulled out is a separate question. This should be done when all political and economic conditions for the pullout are in place; when, for example, one can get a sufficient number of trains here and then dispatch them to new stationing sites so that local women do not assault our units, as was the case before... Those conditions are not yet met! Why not? Just because a year and a half of peace brought no results; negotiations are in a deadlock with no progress in sight. As for economic conditions, Shevardnadze from Georgia babbled much about them—hundreds of thousands of officers are left without jobs, apartments, and any prospects for the future. This kind of withdrawal is even more unacceptable. There is also a diplomatic side to the whole problem. What would Ukraine say, if I started to

transport weapons and ammunition through its territory? After all, its railroads will be jammed with dangerous cargo. There is a technical side to this problem. Considering the railroads and loading sites available and the huge amount of weapons, this transportation would require two solid years of around-the-clock work—day and night, and no holidays... So, who can ever talk here about the summer of 1994? Besides, you cannot utilize the ammunition here. They would not listen to any arguments, and only go like, Get out of here and period. I think it is an election campaign ploy.

[KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Some politicians—in particular, Brigitte Schultz who is the leader of a NATO group observing elections in Moldova—believe that the presence of the 14th Russian Army in the Dniester region will complicate Russia's participation in the "Partnership for Peace."

[Lebed] Brigitte Schultz is no authority to me. Besides, women should move their butts out of this place, and not stick their noses into the dog's turd. She is threatening us? Let her come down here and try to pull this Army out. The former Soviet Army withdrew from Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Germany, Mongolia, and Cuba. This was the first wave, and then the second one followed. The withdrawal of the Western Group of Troops is to be completed by 1 September, and the Northwestern Group of Troops is now being withdrawn from the Baltics. All this crush of officers, warrant officers, military equipment, and wild homeless officers... With a severe economic crisis crippling Russia and Ukraine, this problem will not be solved quickly. And it must be solved in a civilized manner. When the British Rhein Army had to be pulled out from Germany two years ago, the British estimated that this would require nine years. Germans checked it out and agreed. This is what I call a civilized approach.

[KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Who could replace the 14th Army in the future? UN peacekeeping forces, maybe?

[Lebed] Let us take it for granted that not long ago, we were citizens of one state, therefore we can come to terms more quickly and easily than any Americans, Germans, or Englishmen. Take, for example, the trilateral peacekeeping posts of Russians, Dniester Russians, and Moldovans. If they want to get smashed, they do it together, so there are no ethnic problems among them. Their commanders know each other, too, because they used to serve in the same army.

A steady balance of forces has been established in this region. If you drastically disturb it... For example, suppose there is no 14th Army as of tomorrow. This will immediately instigate a temptation to solve long-standing problems in one fell swoop. Someone will have to fill the vacuum. No action, however tough and swift, can be victorious. That is a tough place around here—everyone would always owe something to everyone. European borders were drawn and redrawn after numerous wars. Here, you can prove that white is either white or black, depending on how old your map is. This is why this place can become another Yugoslavia. Personally, I don't see any possibility as to how to pull my Army out of this region. Even if someone new comes tomorrow to lead it, he would not see, either.

The humiliatingly short record time for withdrawal from foreign countries often brought about a problem of, say, how to dissolve a division in two months. Servicemen were asked then where they came from. Are you guys from Tiraspol? Come to the 14th Army commander, he will find you a place. As a result, 51 percent of officers and 79 percent of warrant officers in my Army come from this region. This is one whole jumble—the Army is Russian, its commander's last name is Lebed, his combat deputy is Melnychuk, and his logistic deputy is Perepadya. All of them have numerous relatives in nearby Ukraine. Generally speaking, this is paranoia that needs to be blown away as soon as possible. Ukrainians, Russians, Belarusians are all Slavs with one fate, blood, and faith. We should think of what unites us, and not the other way around. What we are doing right now is separating them as Siamese twins that have two heads and one body. If separated, both of them will be nothing but hideous freaks. So, we are working now on the freaks.

[KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] What are the relations between the 14th Army command and the Dniester leadership?

[Lebed] Relations with the Dniester Republic of Moldova [PRM] have never been cloudless. They introduced some dumb money and meddled in someone else's business by sending some hundred soldiers to the White House in October. They bring in some citizenship and pass weird laws, privatizing the 30-km-stretch of the Russian gas pipe line in the region. They took under their jurisdiction the air space over their republic without even having an airport and planes. I refused to be a PRM deputy because I am against the boorish interference with affairs of the state that I serve. It is up to Russia what president and parliament to elect. No Swedes, Czechs, or Dniester residents have the right to decide this.

Kazakhstan

'Closed Doors' Talks on Baykonur Continue

LD1003102494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0848 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Akimov and Amangeldy Akhmetalimov]

[Text] Almaty March 10 TASS—Negotiations on the status of cosmodrome Baykonur, which began here late night between Kazakhstan and Russia, continue today behind closed doors.

However, none of the officials participating in the negotiations makes a special secret of the purpose and tendency of the talks. The delegations, headed by Kazakhstan's state counsellor Tulegen Zhukeyev and Russian space agency general director Yuriy Koptev, are forging rapprochement between the two countries on the status of the ex-Soviet space port and the rent Russia is asked to pay for its lease.

Progress is hampered by Kazakhstan's demand that Russia, the legal successor to the former Soviet Union pay ecological damages caused to the regions bordering on Baykonur throughout the years of its operation.

If the negotiations end successfully, the status of Baykonur will be put on the agenda of the upcoming meeting between President Boris Yeltsin and President Nursultan Nazarbayev at the end of March.

The two countries will then sign documents on the status and use of Baykonur on a new basis.

Official Rejects Charges of Voting Anomalies

LD0903180394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Preparations for the summit between the presidents of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, Nursultan Nazarbayev and Boris Yeltsin, are in full swing. The two presidents will meet at the end of the month. Most subjects to be discussed at the meeting have already been carefully prepared.

In Kazakhstan itself, votes in the republic's first parliamentary elections are still being counted. According to provisional figures, about 75 percent of the electorate took part in the elections, which were for the Supreme Kenges and local councils. The organizers of the polls had certain worries about the northern part of the republic, where the Russian-speaking community predominates. However, there was no boycott, although foreign observers are saying that the elections were not completely free and fair. According to Radio France Internationale, Andranik Migranyan, an adviser to the Russian president, who went to Almaty to monitor the elections, said that an attempt was made to ensure that the new parliament is dominated by Kazakh deputies rather than by representatives of other ethnic groups.

Kazakhstan's Central Electoral Commission naturally rejects the allegations that there have been numerous contraventions of voting procedures. The commission's chairman, Karatay Turysov, described them as being clearly exaggerated. The complaints which have already been received are being painstakingly checked, Turysov said, and the necessary conclusions will be drawn from each of them.

Tajikistan

Adamashin Persuades Opposing Sides To Hold Talks

LD0903145994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1339 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Sources in the Russian Foreign Ministry told Interfax that First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin had succeeded in persuading the Tajik opposition leaders to hold talks with Tajik authorities. The first round of talks is expected to be held in Moscow some time after March 16 with Russian mediation under the aegis of the UN.

A senior Russian diplomat, who had accompanied Adamishin, said that Moscow appreciated "the positive mood" of the Tajik opposition. "The venue of the talks proved to be the sole problem; We proposed Moscow. Tajik opposition agreed to hold only the first round of talks here which was to be followed by meetings in Tehran, Iran or Islamabad, Pakistan. We did not object because we thought that the most important thing was to have the negotiation process started," the diplomat said.

He added that the Tajik opposition leaders had emphasized the special role played by Russia, notably as the guarantor of Tajikistan's independence.

According to the diplomat, Russia will do its best for the success of the talks while not being a party to them.

Adamishin met with a Tajik opposition delegation headed by Khoji Akbar Turajonzoda who acted on behalf of Abdullah Nuri, leader of the Islamic Revival Movement. Other delegation members were Mukhammad Sharif Khimmadzoda, a leader of the Islamic Revival Party; Atakhon Latifi, a leader of the Democratic Party; Abdu Nabi Sattorov, a member of the Democratic Force Movement ruling body; Sabib Sangipov, chairman of the Fund of Aid to Tajik Refugees and Displaced Persons in CIS Member Nations, Bozorali Safarov, former Tajik transport minister and Khudoberdy Kholiknazarov, former foreign minister.

Opposition Leader Previews Talks

MK1003115094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Oleg Panfilov: "Representatives of Authorities and Opposition To Meet in Moscow Unless There Is a Power Change in the Republic"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] One member of the Tajik opposition, Khodzhi Akbar Turadzhonzoda, former head of the republic's Spiritual Administration of Muslims, former People's Deputy and member of the presidium of Tajikistan Supreme Soviet, gave NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA a brief telephone interview.

[Turadzhonzoda] We are grateful to Russian diplomats for their efforts in preparing talks. I think that Russia has realized its responsibility and its place in regional policy. We have always been and remain advocates of close and friendly relations with Russia. We are together with democrats of Russia, together with those who campaign for the observance of human rights and the rights of nations to self-determination. We are especially pleased at the visit of Anatoliy Adamishin, with whom we have struck understanding on many questions. Distressing is the position of the Russian military, which does not want a peaceful resolution of the conflict; this is attested to by the threats of punitive operations against residents of the Garm group of rayons and against refugees in Afghanistan.

[Panfilov] What conditions do you set for holding talks in Moscow?

[Turadzhonzoda] First and foremost are guarantees of security for participants in the talks, as well as for their relations who are on the territory of Tajikistan and in CIS countries. The ruling out of all pressure on the negotiating process from whichever side. Especially, the cutting short of attempts to scuttle the talks on the part of the joint command of the military contingent stationed in Tajikistan, as well as holding no exercises in the "Tigrovaya Balka" nature preserve, and actions against residents of the Garm group of rayons and refugees in Afghanistan. [interview ends]

In line with the agreement, taking part in the talks will be six persons on each side—the opposition and the present authorities in Tajikistan. It is so far unknown whether Khodzhi Akbar Turadzhonzoda and, from the opposition, Mukhammadsharif Khimmatozoda, chairman of the Islamic Party of Revival, will come along. The others will be from the so-called moderate opposition. The government group's composition is still unknown. [passage omitted]

Opposition Welcomes Mediation

PM0903202794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by Journalist Arkadiy Dubnov incorporating telephone interview with Haji Akhbar Turajonzoda, former head of Tajik Muslims, in Tehran; date of interview not given: "Tajik Opposition Reaches Mutual Understanding With Russian Diplomats But Not With Russian Military"]

[Text] The Tehran meetings between Tajik opposition leaders and Anatoliy Adamishin, Russian first deputy foreign minister, were successful.

The first round of talks between the Tajik Government and the opposition will take place in Moscow. The subsequent rounds are due to be held in Iran and Afghanistan in order to give due credit to the efforts of these countries, which have assisted national reconciliation in Tajikistan. In addition, their observers, like observers from Russia, Pakistan, and the United Nations, are due to attend the talks themselves. The leader of the Tajik opposition delegation will be Haji Akhbar Turajonzoda, former head of the Tajik Muslims.

On behalf of the Russian leadership Adamishin guaranteed the delegation members' complete safety during their stay in Moscow. But opposition leaders are concerned for the safety of their families living in Tajikistan, especially bearing in mind that they themselves have been declared state criminals by the Dushanbe authorities.

The interlocutors agreed that for the duration of the talks a moratorium must be imposed on hostilities both on the Tajik-Afghan border and inside Tajikistan.

But the plans of the command of the CIS coalition peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan to hold military exercises in the near future on the territory of the unique "Tiger Gully" nature reserve and to carry out deterrent actions against the population of the Garm group of districts in the republic are being seen by the opposition as an attempt to wreck the talks.

I contacted former spiritual leader Turajonzoda by telephone in Tehran and asked him a few questions.

[Dubnov] We know about your statement that you do not aspire to political power in Tajikistan and that the new transitional coalition leadership must include professionals untainted by participation in the armed struggle of Tajiks among themselves. Can you see such people in the current Tajik leadership?

[Turajonzoda] I have no doubt that there are now such decent people in the Tajik Government. This question was not discussed in the meetings with Mr. Adamishin.

[Dubnov] Will you be able to guarantee control over opposition gunmen in order to observe the truce for the duration of the talks?

[Turajonzoda] I can give an absolute guarantee. This is where we differ from the Dushanbe regime, which even now is incapable of coping with its own armed formations in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast.

[Dubnov] How do you assess the role of Russian diplomats and military personnel in the Tajik-Tajik truce?

[Turajonzoda] We are very grateful to the Russian Foreign Ministry for the meeting held in Tehran. We were ready for it even during the last eight months. Russia has finally recognized its state interests and its historical place in the region, and we fully recognize its geopolitical importance here. Friendly relations with democratic

Russia, where human rights and ethnic minorities' rights are respected, are entirely in our interests.

As regards the Russian military, we very much regret that some of them are not interested in a peaceful solution to the Tajik problem and are even trying to sow discord among opposition forces in Tajikistan. In doing so they are possibly pursuing their own aims. Mr. Adamishin also recognized in conversations with us that military personnel in Tajikistan often exceed their functions, and confirmed instances of their interference in the intra-Tajik conflict.

[Dubnov] How soon can the Tajik-Tajik talks take place?

[Turajonzoda] That must be determined by the UN secretary general's special representative; we are ready to begin them at any time.

Security, Defense Officials Deny Riot 'Rumors'

LD1003112994 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] There are various rumors circulating in the republic alleging that the opposition forces would start riots in Dushanbe and other towns and rayons of the republic on 13, 15, or 21 March, and the armed groups of the opposition would organize armed incursion on the Tajik-Afghan border.

The Tajik Security Ministry, Internal Affairs Ministry, and Defense Ministry state with full responsibility that these rumors are groundless and the republic's social and political situation is under full control. The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border is under control as well. The border is safely controlled by Russian border troops in Tajikistan. The border units of the Tajik Army, Russian servicemen of the 201st motorized rifle division, as well as the units of the CIS coalition peacekeeping forces render all-round assistance to the Russian border troops.

There is no doubt that Tajikistan's border and territory will be protected from any kind of invasions. The ministries firmly state that in the republic and on its borders there are no forces able to violate the peace and tranquillity of Tajik citizens.

General Pyankov Comments on Border Situation

LD1003100194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1930 GMT 9 Mar 94

[From the "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border remains complex. Over the holiday a number of provocations were carried out against the Russian border guards and the subunits of the CIS collective peacekeeping forces. Here is a characterization of the situation on the border with Afghanistan and in Tajikistan as a whole by Colonel General Boris Pyankov, commander of the collective peacekeeping forces.

[Begin Pyankov recording] Unfortunately there has been a sharp intensification of the confrontation between the regions, and there is an attempt to employ strong-arm methods. More and more often there are very brutal terrorist acts. People are being killed for different reasons.

Regions are in conflict, and various forces are in conflict within the regions themselves. At the same time we sense that there has been a sharp increase in the pressure on the Tajik-Afghan border and on the border guards above all from the Afghan side. For the time being, of course, the weather conditions have been a restraining factor. It is mountainous terrain, and everything is still covered with snow. The passes are closed, and paths are difficult to traverse. In these conditions, however, violations or attempts to violate the border are occurring almost daily. The situation is particularly grave in the Pyandzh border detachment's strip, where border violations and attempts to break through are occurring almost daily. The situation is complex too in the Sarygor area, where the well-known 12th and 13th border posts are located.

Unfortunately new symptoms have appeared. Whereas previously we had been noting cases of attempts to cross the border by relatively small groups, bands, and detachments armed with small firearms, we now have cases of border posts, the positions of peacekeeping force subunits, and Tajik populated localities being bombarded by mortars and artillery from Afghan territory. [end recording]

The command of the peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan thinks that the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border may have further deteriorated by mid-March. According to the military, a considerable number of specially trained Tajik opposition fighters have already amassed in the Afghan border areas. Many of these detachments are equipped with Stinger portable anti-aircraft missiles, artillery, and mortars.

Russian Border Guards Detain Three 'Armed Men'

LD1003145794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1149 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] According to the press bureau of the Russian border guards, on Wednesday three armed men were detained crossing the Tajik-Afghan border from Afghanistan at the Khorog border unit. During the operation Russian border guards came under gun fire from three points in the Afghan territory. They retaliated. One of the gunmen was wounded. None of the border guards was hurt.

Armenia

Armenian, Azeri Parliament Heads To Meet 12 Mar

NC0903150194 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Babken Araktsyan, chairman of Armenian Supreme Council, held telephone conversations yesterday evening and today with Rasul Guliyev, chairman of the Azerbaijani Parliament.

The Supreme Council Press Service reported that an agreement was reached for a meeting between the chairmen of the two parliaments on the Idzhevanskiy-Kazakhskiy border on 12 March.

Fighting Continuing in Southeast Karabakh

NC0903153494 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] A relative calm is prevailing on most of the war fronts in Karabakh. Tension has been continuing only in the southeastern sector since 3 March. The military operations are still continuing there.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army Press Service has reported that the Azerbaijani troops used mostly howitzers to shell Karabakh positions near Fizuli this morning. There are injured. The enemy halted its military operations after countermeasures were taken by the Armenian forces.

The Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service has reported that a relative calm has also been prevailing on Armenia's borders since last night.

'Over Half' of Yerevan Said for Ruble Zone

NC0903112494 Yerevan SNARK in English 0856 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Yerevan, March 9 (SNARK)—Over the half of Yerevan citizens think that Armenia should enter the ruble zone. These are the results of the public opinion poll carried out in February by Social Research Center of the National Academy of Armenia, among 600 citizens. Only 13 per cent of respondents are of the opinion that there is no need of entering the ruble zone, since Armenia introduced its own national currency—dram.

Moreover, the head of the Center Gevork Poghosian pointed out the fact, that only 4.5 per cent of Yerevan citizens believe in stability of dram. About the half—44.8 per cent—are certain the national currency will devaluate, and 29 per cent think dram will finally yield to Russian ruble.

Azerbaijan

Armenian Attacks in Fizulinskiy Rayon Reported

NC0903173794 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] The Defense Ministry Press Service has reported that the situation remains tense in the Fizulinskiy sector of the confrontation line. The Armenian Armed Forces have been continuing their unsuccessful attacks against our Army's positions in this sector since 7 March. Our troops are bravely resisting the enemy onslaughts.

Armenian artillery has been shelling our positions in Agdamskiy and Terterskiy Rayons since 0500 this morning.

A relative calm prevails in the other sectors of the front.

Leaders To Meet To Discuss Peace Plan

NC0903202994 Baku TURAN in English 1813 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Baku, March 9 (TURAN)—Informed sources from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs told TURAN that a meeting of the heads of the governments of Azerbaijan and Armenia and the representatives of the Armenian Community in Nagorno-Karabakh is expected to take place during the second half of March in Moscow.

The meeting will provide a concrete step towards the adoption of a peace settlement plan of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

According to the plan, after a ceasefire and withdrawal of troops from both front lines, the Armenian troops must free all occupied territories outside of Upper [Nagorno] Karabakh, except Lachinskiy district. Following that, direct talks must commence between Baku and Khankendi (Stepanakert) over the status of Upper Karabakh.

It has been suggested to Azerbaijan that a treaty be signed with Upper Karabakh that would give the status of autonomous republic to the region with Azerbaijan. In addition, the creation of a demilitarized zone around Upper Karabakh has also been suggested. This plan also provides for the maintenance of the Lachin corridor as a means of communication between Armenia and Upper Karabakh.

The fate of Shushinskiy district of Upper Karabakh and the question about the Azeri population returning has not come up in the settlement proposal. These questions are to be discussed at a later date. It has been conveyed that Moscow is pushing for a quick implementation of the plan.

TURAN news agency was informed that this plan was discussed in the meeting between the Deputy of Foreign Affairs of Russia, Anatoliy Adamishin, and the Speaker of the Azerbaijani Parliament, Rasul Guliyev. Russia's

envoy Vladimir Kazimirov and Russia's Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Valter Shoniya, also took part in the meeting.

Guliyev Says Peace Depends on Military Might

NC0903190594 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] An extensive meeting was held at the Supreme Soviet today under the chairmanship of Rasul Guliyev, speaker of the parliament.

Our correspondent Gulsefa Ahmedova reports:

[Begin recording] [Ahmedova] The situation on the fronts and in the Army and measures to end the more than five-year war were discussed at a meeting that was devoted to the military-political situation in the Republic and problems connected with the creation of the army.

Rasul Guliyev informed the meeting that, despite contacts at various levels to put an end to the Armenian aggression, the opposing side is doing everything to prevent the resolution of the conflict by peaceful means. No matter what the difficulties are, the Azerbaijani people will shape their own destiny. Only we ourselves should solve all our problems.

[Guliyev] The future and destiny of Azerbaijan rests solely in the hands of the people. No one, be they our close neighbors or countries friendly to us elsewhere, will solve the Azerbaijani people's problems. For that reason, we must have a strong army, internal unity, and economic potential. We must also deal decisive and courageous blows against the enemy. Such blows will bring peace closer. The opposing side will opt for peace only when faced with force.

[Ahmedova] The chairman of the Supreme Soviet also informed the meeting that Babken Ararktsyan, chairman of the Armenian parliament, phoned him and expressed his wish for a meeting. It is highly possible that this meeting could take place on Saturday.

Prime Minister Suret Guseynov and heads of main departments at various ministries were taking part in the meeting.

The meeting is continuing behind closed doors. [end recording]

Russia's Approach on Karabakh Dispute Viewed

NC0903221394 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Unattributed commentary: "Russia is Active Again]

[Text] Russia has recently made a strenuous effort to regain its influence. Moscow's representatives in the UN Security Council and the CSCE have proposed several times that Russia be regarded as the only peacekeeping force in the former Soviet Union's territory. However, although the international community has adopted a cautious approach, Russia's leaders continue to insist on that view. It will be recalled that several international meetings and symposiums have rejected that idea.

Russia's military units have been deployed in Georgia with the consent of that Republic's leaders. They have been assigned to end the dispute between Abkhaziya and Georgia and establish peace. However, it is common knowledge that they do not [words indistinct]

Meanwhile, Russia's interest in Azerbaijan is gradually increasing. That country's media organs claimed some time ago that Russia wishes to establish a base in Azerbaijan but Baku has failed to approve Moscow's proposal on the matter. The media organs also claimed that Russia's troops will be deployed in Karabakh. That, too, was a wrong report. It is common knowledge that Azerbaijan's leaders are categorically opposed to the deployment of Russia's troops in Karabakh. President Aliyev and several other officials believe that the deployment of Russia's forces may prolong the peaceful settlement of the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan and obstruct the withdrawal of the Armenian armed groups from our republic's occupied territories. In view of that, Baku is opposed to that idea.

Ambassador Vladimir Kazimirov, President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy, arrived in our region a few days ago. He was accompanied by Deputy Defense Minister G. Kondratyev. Undoubtedly, their arrival was linked to Russia's deployment of its peacekeeping forces in Karabakh. Baku outlined its position and noted that the deployment of Russia's troops on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan would be more appropriate. Azerbaijan's residential areas would not be fired on from Armenia and the Republic's people would find an opportunity to live in peace and attend to their daily work.

Russia made a new proposal for the peaceful solution of the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan in February. A cease-fire agreement was reached, which would be put into effect on 1 March. Undoubtedly, that was welcomed. Naturally, Russia could have used that agreement to strengthen its influence. Unfortunately, however, we wish to note that the cease-fire agreement was short-lived. The Armenian side violated it, as it has done so several times in the past. Meanwhile, Moscow was expected to warn Yerevan to force it to remain committed to the agreement.

It is common knowledge that Russia was eager to participate in the effort made to end the dispute in Bosnia. In fact, it has achieved its objective to a certain degree. Moscow wished to use the experience it gained in Bosnia in Azerbaijan.

Meanwhile, it will be recalled that Baku has disclosed several times that it supports the peaceful solution of the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Furthermore, it has confirmed its approach through the steps it has taken thus far. Nevertheless, Azerbaijan's leaders call for the liberation of all the occupied territories and the

removal of all the Armenian armed groups from our Republic. It is only then that Azerbaijan can hold talks for the solution of the problem. Moscow is well-aware of Baku's position. It will be recalled that Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev supported Azerbaijan's draft plan and described it as a constructive document that is acceptable to all the sides concerned.

However, it seems that Russia is unable to relinquish its ambitions. Moscow must comply with international agreements and law. That is how it can regain its influence.

Aliyev Explains War With Armenia to PRC Leaders

PM0903173994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Mar 94 First Edition p 3

[Report by Vladimir Skosyrev: "Geydar Aliyev Has Informed Beijing of Conflict with Armenia"]

[Text] Beijing—One of the main aims of the first visit to the PRC by the president of independent Azerbaijan was to inform the Chinese leadership of the reasons for the war with Armenia. G. Aliyev stated this at a press conference in Beijing.

The Chinese leaders listened politely to their guest and expressed sympathy but went no further than calling for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. China, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, prefers to maintain neutrality. Correspondents were interested to know whether China had promised to render economic aid to Azerbaijan. It follows from the president's reply that relations between the two countries will be built on a mutually advantageous basis and there was therefore no talk of China's economic aid.

Ministry Statement on Russian Peace Plan Issued

NC0903210894 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 9 Mar 94

["Text" of statement from Azerbaijani Ministry of Foreign Affairs; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In accordance with Russia's invitation, President Geydar Aliyev dispatched his representative to Moscow on 2 March to hold talks on the peaceful solution of the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan through the Russian Federation's mediation. However, Armenia's representatives and those of the Armenian community in Azerbaijan's Daghlyk [Nagorno] Karabakh region failed to arrive in Moscow. As such, they undermined yet another effort Russia made to mediate to end the combat operations in the region.

The Armenian side's behavior has indicated that the Armenian leaders' claims that Azerbaijan does not maintain a practical approach to the peace proposals made by Russia within the CSCE framework and that Azerbaijan expects [words indistinct] are baseless.

On 3 March the Armenian Armed Forces violated the agreement reached by the sides to the dispute, which was included in the protocol the Azerbaijan, Armenian, and Russian defense ministers signed in Moscow on 18 February. The Armenian military units launched a wide-scale attack in Azerbaijan's Fizulinskiy Rayon and intensely pounded Azerbaijan's rayons on Armenia's border with rockets and artillery guns.

[Words indistinct] and many peaceful people have been killed as a result of Armenia's armed aggression against Azerbaijan during the past six years.

The latest incidents have taken place when a CSCE delegation headed by Minsk Group Chairman Jan Eliasson was in the region. The Armenian side has demonstrated once again that it does not wish to comply with the political methods required to end the dispute, heed the norms and stipulations of international law, and fulfill the responsibilities it has shouldered in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and the protocol that was recently signed, which called for the withdrawal of the occupationist forces from Azerbaijan's territory.

Reaffirming Azerbaijani support for ending the dispute through political talks, the Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs holds Armenia's leaders fully responsible for the violation of the cease- fire agreement and the latest upsurge of military operations in the region.

Arms Discovered in Nakhichevan Front HQ

NC0903175994 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Ahsen Zahidov, chief inspector of the press service of the Azerbaijani Interior Ministry, said that during an authorized search the city police found three machine guns, one mine, one double-barrelled BM (Zenit) launcher, two AK automatic guns, 91 bullets, 1078 cartridges, feeders for automatic weapons and machine guns, military maps, and sanitary equipment at the Azerbaijan People's Front city headquarters in Nakhichevan. An investigation has been launched into the case.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Ends Washington Visit, Heads to New York

LD0903150394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0240 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Loshchilin]

[Text] Washington, 9 Mar—"I thank U.S. President Bill Clinton and everyone with whom I had contacts here for their kind feelings toward our small country and their

understanding of its problems. We have received promises of as much support as possible," Eduard Shevardnadze, the head of the Georgian state, said on Tuesday, summing up the results of his official visit to the U.S. capital at a news conference at the National Press Club in Washington.

"It is quite natural that the attention of the world has been focused on the political processes in Russia and on whether it will succeed in building a new, truly democratic state," E. Shevardnadze noted. "The West can and should assist in this process, but if it views events in Russia in isolation from what is happening in other former Soviet republics it will have to pay a very high price. I tried to explain in my conversations that despite the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the territory which it occupied remains a single socio-economic space where there is still a close interconnection between cultures and social thought. That is why I am convinced that all the new independent states should be viewed as a whole. Otherwise, the stability of even the largest and most influential of them may be undermined by instability on its borders".

Earlier on Tuesday E. Shevardnadze had meetings in Washington with World Bank president Lewis Preston and International Monetary Fund managing director Michel Camdessus. The expansion of cooperation with the world's largest multinational credit-lending and financial organisations in advancing the republic's economy was discussed, Georgian Deputy Prime Minister Irakli Menagarishvili, who took part in the talks, told ITAR-TASS. "The meetings were held in a constructive and warm atmosphere. E. Shevardnadze assured his interlocutors that, notwithstanding all the difficulties connected with military operations and their consequences, Georgia firmly intends to go ahead with the market reform policy. He outlined our government's plans in this respect and urged the World Bank and IMF leaders to help the republic resolve the complex economic problems facing it. Support for the Georgian national monetary units was discussed at the talks," I. Menagarishvili said. The same day the head of the Georgian state visited the Capitol where he had a series of meetings with the heads of committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the U.S. Congress. The main subject there was the problem of humanitarian, technical and financial aid to the forer Soviet republic. "I hope that I succeeded in convincing the legislators to allocate additional funds to Georgia," in addition to the $70 million which President Bill Clinton promised to grant this year, E. Shevardnadze said in reply to a question by an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

E. Shevardnadze began the third day of his visit to Washington with a short working lunch with James Wolsey, director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. The Georgian delegation was unable to tell the ITAR-TASS correspondent anything about the nature of the issues discussed, because the conversation in the guest residence of the republican leader was one-on-one. It is no secret, however, that the CIA is assisting Tbilisi in training its national security forces and the personal guard of the head of state.

After concluding the Washington part of his visit to the United States, E. Shevardnadze flew to New York. Today he is due to speak at the UN Security Council and to set out the Georgian Government's position on questions of the prospects for a settlement in Abkhazia and for sending international peace-keeping forces to the conflict zone.

Holds UN News Conference

LD1003121894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2300 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations, 10 Mar—Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze held a news conference here on Wednesday in connection with the UN Security Council's discussion of the situation in Abkhazia. After the Security Council meeting he held a brief news conference, where he stated, in particular: "The Georgian side came to the Security Council session with good ideas. It was very important for us to know to what degree the point of view of the Georgian leadership on the conflict in Abkhazia coincides with that held by the Security Council members. I would like to note with satisfaction that our views and those of the Security Council members coincide on most of the fundamental issues; our views coincide on issues relating to Georgia's territorial integrity and the creation of safe conditions for the return of refugees and for the stationing of peacekeeping forces in the region."

Touching on further UN measures regarding the Abkhazian conflict, Shevardnadze said: "After studying the situation the UN secretary general will deliver a report to the Security Council; this will take place on 21 March. On the basis of this report the Security Council will adopt a decision on sending peacekeeping forces to Abkhazia."

Shevardnadze reported that in the course of the Georgian-Abkhazian talks held at the UN headquarters work on documents has not been yet concluded. "Work on them will be continued in Geneva later," he said. He stated that the Geneva talks should be resumed before 20 March.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent asked whether a plan for stationing peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia was discussed at his meeting with President Clinton. "The issue relating to the need to send peacekeeping forces was discussed with President Clinton in principle, and in this respect we reached good understanding," E. Shevardnadze answered.

Asked whether it would suit Georgia if Russian troops were part of the peacemaking forces, E. Shevardnadze said: "Absolutely, with the participation of Russian

troops and those of other countries. As to what other countries will be taking part, it is not of any fundamental importance to us." On the issue of the proportion of Russia's participation in operations, he stressed: "Everything will be decided at the Security Council sitting. It is not a very significant issue for us. What is important for us is that this operation is taking place under the aegis of the United Nations."

'Satisfied' With Visit

LD1003093694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0640 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Kolesnichenko]

[Text] New York, 10 Mar—"I am satisfied with my visit to the United States. President Clinton, the leadership of the U.S. Congress, and I came to complete mutual understanding regarding various aspects of politics on the agenda of our talks," Eduard Shevardnadze, head of the Georgian state, stated on Wednesday evening. In an exclusive interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent he noted that, during the meetings with the U.S. leadership, "an atmosphere of solidarity with Georgia and support for its territorial integrity and democratic development prevailed."

E. Shevardnadze pointed out that he had spent a few hours at the U.S. Congress, persuading the legislators of the need to render urgent and effective economic assistance to Georgia. "In my opinion, during discussion of the aid package the legislators will remember my arguments and agree that the volume of assistance promised by the administration should be increased," he said. "At the present time a critical situation has taken shape in Georgia; the country is on the brink of famine. We need Western assistance, both financial and technical, as never before."

As regards a settlement of the Abkhazian-Georgian conflict, the Georgian leader noted that he had completely devoted the last day of his visit to meetings at the United Nations. "I submitted several variants for a peace settlement to the Security Council," he said. "My speech was received with understanding and approval. At the present time the detailed drafts submitted by us for ways of achieving peace are being examined by the UN secretary general, who should make a final decision in the immediate future. This was a very important day for us. Owing to the fact that numerous talks were scheduled at the headquarters of the international community, we had to make adjustments to the program of the visit and postpone meetings with business circles, although they are also important for us."

The head of the Georgian state spoke out in favor of "global de-Bosnia-ization [debosniizatsii] of all the regional conflicts in the 20th century." He called upon the United States and other developed states in the world to promote this process. "In many cases not only national hatred, separatism, extremism, but also blatant elements of fascism manifest themselves," he pointed out. "We cannot allow the shoots of fascism to grow and allow extremism to triumph."

Dzhaba Ioseliani, chairman of the temporary committee of Georgia for emergency situations, reported in a conversation with the ITAR-TASS correspondent that "the president and the entire delegation were really satisfied with the results of the visit to Washington, but the talks that took place at the United Nations showed that not everyone in the international community is on the side of Georgia." "Some people think that we are extremists," he pointed out. "I think that the U.S. Administration and the UN leadership will come to share the view that there is an acute need to send peacekeeping forces to the region. I think, however, that this contingent will be negligible. It will probably consist of servicemen mainly from the European countries and naturally from Russia, although the U.S. side will try to see that the Russian 'blue berets' are involved as little as possible. The Americans themselves are refusing to send their lads to us."

As the ITAR-TASS correspondent learned from informed sources, on the last day of his stay in Washington E. Shevardnadze held a meeting with CIA Director James Woolsey, at the latter's request, "with just a few people present." According to Petr Chkheidze, during the talks ways were discussed of effecting joint activity in the field of combating the illegal transportation of narcotics to the United States. Both the sides, he noted, had agreed on joint efforts to put an end to this criminal activity.

PRAVDA Commentary

PM1003095194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Vladislav Drobkov: "UN Troops in Caucasus? During U.S. Visit Shevardnadze Persuades Clinton of Need for International Military Presence in Georgia"]

[Text] Washington, 8 Mar—U.S. observers believe the main result of the Georgian Supreme Council chairman's current talks in the U.S. capital is the accord between Eduard Shevardnadze and Bill Clinton regarding the advisability of sending UN international forces to Georgia.

Admittedly, the U.S. President hinted at the same time that Tbilisi must not count on U.S. troops being sent under the UN flag. Other countries must provide men and officers for "peacekeeping" in Georgia. While Washington will only be ready to provide moral and material support for this action, the White House promised.

Having won the support of the U.S. Administration the day before [7 March], Shevardnadze left Washington for New York Tuesday in order to persuade the United Nations to send troops to Georgia. The main purpose of this action, Georgia's representatives say, is to ensure the return home of around 300,000 refugees from Abkhazia.

THE WASHINGTON POST cited Shevardnadze as saying that international armed forces will have to be brought into Abkhazia "to ensure the refugees' peaceful return." "It will be very hard to envisage a settlement to the conflict...without the crucial participation of the United States," he said during a conversation with the editors of THE WASHINGTON POST. In the newspaper's opinion, the Clinton administration is "trying to limit Russian involvement in all the former Soviet republics." "What we want to do is to ensure Georgia's territorial integrity," a White House spokesman said.

Meanwhile news of Clinton's support for this action has elicited conflicting comment and reactions in the U.S. capital itself. On the one hand, both the administration and Congress are not now averse to showing Russia that Moscow's doctrine of "nearby foreign countries" and Russia's peacekeeping role in the former Soviet republics by no means suit everyone here. On the other, the United States is afraid of the adverse consequences of, albeit indirect, involvement in the intricate conflicts amid the ruins of the USSR. Until recently people here were categorically opposed to sending UN troops (never mind U.S. soldiers) to the "new independent states" in the grip of conflict or to conferring the status of UN peacekeeping forces on Russian units and subunits performing peacekeeping missions there.

Even now the U.S. Congress is not united on this problem. Congressmen are particularly worried by the fact that Russian troops will inevitably form a considerable proportion of the UN contingent in Georgia. The United States and the United Nations would thus, as it were, be giving their blessing to Russian peacekeeping efforts in "neighboring foreign countries." And there are too many opponents of that prospect here now.

But people are also unhappy that Russian troops are already in Georgia. And they want to "balance" their presence by sending the UN troops for which Shevardnadze is now asking. An anonymous "ranking administration representative" said that UN forces would not under any circumstances be "Russian troops wearing blue helmets."

In order to give greater weight to his appeals, the Georgian leader took every opportunity to scare the Americans with the idea of the revival of Russian nationalism. With his customary enthusiasm Shevardnadze described the increase in ultranationalist forces in Russia as a "great threat not only to Russia but also to the whole world" during a press conference in Washington. Speaking about events in Russia, he also declared that "every honest citizen of the world" fears the revival of the "cold war."

Shevardnadze did not confine himself to appeals for UN troops to be sent to Georgia and laid the foundations for the development of military cooperation with the United States. He signed a joint statement on this with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry at the Pentagon Tuesday. This envisages the two countries' opening military missions and carrying out a "military cooperation program" which includes U.S. aid and financial assistance for the reorganization of the Georgian Armed Forces.

I would remind you that, according to U.S. press reports, the CIA has been involved in training and arming Shevardnadze's personal guard.

European Union To Start Negotiations on Accord

LD1003102994 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0300 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Georgian envoy to the European Union, Zurab Abashidze reported that on 8 March the council of the European Union made a decision to start negotiations with Georgia on preparing a comprehensive agreement on cooperation. This agreement is viewed as the first stage towards getting close with the central and eastern European states and the European Union and further integration with them. The Baltic states have already signed a similar agreement with the European Union and negotiations are being held with Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova. Thus, Georgia is the first Caucasian state with which the European Union decided to negotiate about the agreement.

The next stage of the European integration is getting a status of an associate member, which has been granted to a number of the former socialist countries in Europe: Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. The agreement on cooperation will create a legal basis for developing comprehensive relations with the 12 member states of the European Union and envisages a number of practical privileges in the sphere of political contacts, economic links, and trade.

Estonia

Russia To Start Dismantling Nuclear Reactors

LD0903153694 Helsinki Suomen. Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1400 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Russia is due to start dismantling two nuclear reactors in Paldiski on the Estonian coast in just under a month's time. The Estonian Environment Minister Andres Tarand says that experts are ready for this. It is believed that the dismantling of the fuel rods will take three months. Tarand suspects, however, that Russia may start slowing down the dismantling of the nuclear reactors. Tarand says that because of difficulties that have emerged in the negotiations between Estonia and Russia, Russia may think of some pretexts to delay the start of the work.

Luik Seeks Rapid Withdrawal of Russian Troops

LD1003100894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1531 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Bonn, 9 Mar—Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik has called for Russian troops to be withdrawn from the Baltic republics as soon as possible in an interview with ITAR-TASS. "Our position is that the final date for the troops' withdrawal should," he stressed, "remain 31 August 1994. There are 2,500 Russian troops in Estonia at present. This minimal number of troops could have been pulled out much sooner. But when Russia proposed a compromise option, giving 31 August as the date, we agreed with her, understanding as we do the difficulties."

"Estonia," Luik continued, "welcomes the recent statement by the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin that Russia would not tie the problem of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic region to the withdrawal of its troops. That is the correct position. We also believe that Russia should first fulfill its international obligation and pull out its troops and then we can settle all the other matters."

As for the rest, in the opinion of the minister relations between Russia and Estonia are developing normally. "If, for instance, you look at trade links, then they are not bad at all," said Luik. "There is a very active commercial transit and imports from Russia and exports out of Estonia are also active. Part of the humanitarian aid to Russia passes through Estonian ports. The two countries' business circles are developing their cooperation well. We have nothing to complain about on that score."

When asked if there was any territorial dispute between Russia and Estonia, Luik replied: "The Estonian side believes that it is necessary to observe the 1920 peace treaty signed in Tartu. But we have always called for this question to be resolved peacefully, at negotiations. We also have proposed resorting to the International Court at the Hague on the matter in question or, which would be even better, to make use of the intermediary services of a third party. We do not intend to dramatize this issue. For us the main thing is the withdrawal of the troops. We can solve the remaining problems later."

Luik Views 8 Mar Meeting With Germany's Kinkel

WS1003090294 Tallinn ETA in English 1944 GMT 9 Mar 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Tallinn, March 9—Commenting upon the meeting of the three Baltic Foreign Ministers with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel in Bonn, on Tuesday [8 March], Estonian Minister of Foreign Affairs Juri Luik told ETA that Kinkel had clearly expressed his support to Estonian aspirations in saying that Russian troops have to be gone from Estonia by August 31, 1994 without any additional conditions.

As to other international issues the ministers discussed relations of the Baltic states with the European Union [EU]. Kinkel expressed hope that the Baltic states would become members of EU as quickly as possible, for which talks on the free trade agreements should be concluded already at the beginning of this summer.

Luik said that the meeting had also dwelt upon Estonia's relations with other international organizations. In May meeting of the Baltic Sea states Foreign Ministers will take place in Tallinn, where both Klaus Kinkel and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev are expected to participate.

Besides these problems German investments to Estonia, visa-free travelling and compensating the damage done to Estonia by Nazi occupation were discussed.

Laar Welcomes Nordic States' 'Strong Support'

WS0903141594 Tallinn BNS in English 1015 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Tallinn, Mar 09, BNS—The Estonian prime minister yesterday welcomed what he said was clear and strong support from the Nordic countries to his nation's demand that Russia abide by its earlier suggested deadline of Aug. 31, 1994, for troop withdrawal from Estonia.

Political support which we expected to get from the Nordic countries over Russian troop withdrawal has been received and is unexpectedly clear-worded and strong, Prime Minister Mart Laar said.

The prime ministers of the Nordic countries at a meeting of the Nordic Council in Stockholm Monday [7 March] issued a statement urging for a quick, orderly and complete withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia and Latvia by Aug. 31, 1994.

The Estonian leader in his remarks to BNS today said it was particularly good that the Nordic leaders in their statement very strongly asserted the final deadline for the pullout. [passage omitted]

Discusses Peacekeeping Battalion

WS0903150394 Tallinn BNS in English 1309 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 09, BNS - Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania must speedily work out the legal basis for formation of the Baltics' common peacekeeping battalion, Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar said in a press conference today. He added that he hoped the countries will manage to do this.

Setting up a common Baltic peacekeeping battalion was one of the topics discussed at a meeting in Stockholm Tuesday [8 March] between Laar, his Latvian counterpart Valdis Birkavs and Lithuanian Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius.

"It seems that the Nordic countries are ready to help the Baltics in the formation of the battalion in every possible way, including training. We from our side try to find out how peacekeeping battalions were created in the Nordic countries and what their structure is," Laar said.

The head of Lithuania's defense forces, Gen. Jonas Andriskevicius, said Tuesday that lawyers at his central staff are currently working on the legal basis for the peacekeeping battalion. He said soldiers for the common battalion are to be trained at a base in Alytus, southern Lithuania. The general said a former Soviet paratrooper units base there was offering excellent conditions for training the staff of the new force.

Comments on Russian Ties

WS0903150294 Tallinn BNS in English 1309 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text]Tallinn, Mar 09, BNS—The Baltics have coordinated their common tactics and aims for the talks with Russia, Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar said at a press conference today.

Laar was speaking to reporters after returning from Stockholm where Laar, his Latvian counterpart Valdis Birkavs, and Lithuania's Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius attended an annual meeting of the Nordic Council.

But Laar declined to elaborate on the topic of the common tactics.

He said relations of all three with Russia were quite similar at the moment.

"Also the situation of Lithuania is not much better than that of Estonia and Latvia, because problems are created by the Kaliningrad region and Russia's military transits through Lithuania. When Estonia and Latvia once succeed in getting the Russian troops out, the Kaliningrad region surely will become one of the main security political problems of the Baltic region," the Estonian leader said.

He added that the Nordic prime ministers had issued clear-worded political support to demands by Estonia and Latvia that Russian troops be pulled out from these countries by Aug. 31.

The Nordic prime ministers in a statement issued at the meeting Monday said Russia must withdraw its troops from Estonia and Latvia by Aug. 31, 1994.

Laar said it was very important that the statement included the final date for the troop withdrawal.

He said the meeting in Stockholm had named absurd Russia's demands that Estonia must pay 23 million U.S. dollars to build houses for the repatriated Russian military.

"Some of the Nordic countries have already allocated money for building flats for military leaving to Russia and have also signed agreements on the issue. Sweden is ready to allocate money at once after the troop withdrawal agreement is signed. There was also an idea voiced in Stockholm that the aid should be channeled directly to the Baltic countries if Russia continues its present course," Laar said.

The Estonian prime minister had separate meetings in Stockholm with prime ministers Carl Bildt of Sweden and Esko Aho of Finland.

"At those bilateral meetings I didn't deal with complaining about the situation that has emerged, but tried to seek concrete ways for solution. For Estonia speedy integration with Europe surely is one possibility," he concluded.

Envoy Presents Application for GATT Membership

LD0903115794 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 2000 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] The press service of the Estonian Foreign Ministry has reported that GATT Director General Peter Sutherland received Andres Tomasberg, the Estonian ambassador to France, in Geneva today, at his request. Andres Tomasberg handed the GATT director general Estonia's official request, signed by Prime Minister Mart Laar, for full GATT membership, as well as a memorandum that provides a survey of the Estonian economic situation. From 1 January 1995 [words indistinct]. Andres Tomasberg hopes that Estonia could become a constituent member.

Estonia's request will be discussed officially at the GATT Council meeting on 23-24 March. If the decision is positive, GATT will set up a working group to work in detail on the issues connected with Estonia's membership.

EU Membership Not Possible Until 1998

WS0803183994 Tallinn BNS in English 1356 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 08, BNS—Estonia theoretically can join the European Union [EU] only in 1998, but in reality this is likely to happen even later, said Ivar Raig, the head of the government's work group for issues of joining the EU.

The work group to prepare Estonia's application for membership in the European body was set up in December.

Members in the group will gather and prepare data on whether it is advisable for Estonia to join the EU, when and where to do it, what are the things Estonia still has to do to measure up to the EU standards, and what can the EU offer to Estonia, and Estonia, to the EU, Raig said.

The topics all together number 23 and are divided between the groups for foreign and security policy, for economic and social policy, and for political decisions and legislation, he said.

The documents to be drawn up will be also circulated to shape a positive attitude toward Estonia within the EU. The materials must reflect Estonia's readiness to join the Union, Raig said, reminding that Estonia's future membership has to be ratified by each of the EU full members.

Raig said the materials must be submitted by March 31. Also to be elected is an international group of experts to sponsor Estonia's moves in Brussels.

He said his work group is also preparing for an international congress due on Oct. 5-7.

The people's opinion will be asked in a referendum at the time when Estonia already has obtained an associate member's status, i.e. not before 1998, Raig added.

The work group meets once a month, but the board of the group is meeting more often, he said.

Foreign Ministry Acquires 3 Deputy Chancellors

WS0903194094 Tallinn BNS in English 1640 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 09, BNS—Starting from this week, the Estonian Foreign Ministry has three deputy chancellors responsible for different areas of the ministry's activity.

Raul Malk, formerly adviser at the ministry, is in charge of the work of the political, information and press departments. Priit Koibre, who so far headed the ministry's foreign economic policy department, was appointed deputy chancellor for foreign economic policy. The third new appointment is Epp Aruja, former deputy head of the ministry's administrative department, who became deputy chancellor for ministry administration.

Russian Military Involvement in Crimes Increases

WS0903204194 Tallinn BNS in English 1921 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 09, BNS—The number of crimes committed by Russian military in Estonia has grown in recent months, Tallinn Police Chief Ralf Palo said in a press conference today. He said the number was evidently even higher, for not all illegal activity has been uncovered.

Police have arrested many Russian military suspected of crime during the past month.

On March 8, police arrested two employees of a Russian military unit in Tallinn. The men are suspected to have robbed a Tallinn resident.

A day before, the security police and the police special task force "K" conducted an operation which resulted in the arrest of two men who illegally sold weapons. The suspects had offered to sell a consignment of Russian-made TT pistols. One of the men was Yuri Terzikyan, noncommissioned officer at the Russian unit stationed at Tondi, Tallinn.

Early on March 2, two Russian servicemen escaped from the correctional isolation chambers of the Tallinn garrison, taking two machine guns with 60 cartridges.

On March 1 Estonian border guards detained Russian navy noncommissioned officer Alexander Yegorov at the border checkpoint to Russia in Narva, northeast Estonia, on an attempt to take a stolen Lada car out of Estonia.

Police had to interfere and stop Russian servicemen when the latter in late February started to pull down a holiday home at Suurupi near Tallinn. The holiday home had been leased to a private company. Charges have been brought against the military of the Tondi unit, including for 10,000 [currency not specified] in damages to the leaseholder company.

Also in February, Estonian police seized 500 kilograms of high-power explosive from a Russian noncommissioned officer. Experts say the amount was sufficient to explode the World Trade Center in New York. The man also had 12,000 pieces of gun ammunition which he claimed he intended to sell.

Forces Conclude Maneuvers in Tapa-Kadrina-Rakvere

WS0803160794 Tallinn ETA in English 1128 GMT 8 Mar 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 45/94]

[Text] The three-day exercise of the defence forces in the Tapa-Kadrina-Rakvere region ended yesterday. The Kalev and Viru battalions and defence league units, totalling 1,000 men and 30 armoured personnel carriers, took part in the exercise.

Latvia

Committee Chief Reacts to Churkin's Remarks

WS0903145694 Tallinn BNS in English 1015 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 09, BNS—The March 7 statement by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin was an attempt to exert political pressure on Latvia, the head of the Latvian parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee said Tuesday [8 March].

As reported, Churkin told reporters Monday that Russia has not taken any obligation to withdraw its troops from Latvia and Estonia by the end of August.

Alexander Kirsteins, head of the Saeima [parliament] committee, argued that Russia has long declared its commitment to complete the pullout by Aug. 31 if Latvia compromises on the radar installation at Skrunda and social guarantees for war pensioners.

Russia has not signed any international treaty that would have made it assume any obligations regarding the troop withdrawal.

In the Kirsteins' words, the absence of formal agreements allows Russia to fix the withdrawal deadline arbitrarily and interpret the Latvian stance on debatable issues in an ambiguous manner.

On the other hand, Latvia has also undertaken no international obligations to supply electricity to Russian installations on its soil, Kirsteins said. Consequently, there were no reason for Russia to protest the explosion at the Skrunda's high voltage electricity post.

Committee To Assess Information on Skrunda Radar

WS0803195694 Tallinn BNS in English 1712 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 08, BNS—Latvia's Government committee for the assessment of environmental, health and social problems connected with the operation of the former Soviet radar installation at Skrunda will soon present a survey on the topics.

The committee's actions will not depend on the anticipated contract with Russia on the further use and dismantling of the radar station, said the committee head, the country's Environmental Protection and Regional Development Minister Girts Lukins.

The group sees its chief task in rehabilitation of residents' health and sanation of the environment, said Lukins.

"The committee's work will be over only when the locals start to feel better, and this is by no means connected with this treaty between Latvia and Russia," said the minister.

The group was set up in February. It includes officials of the Environmental Protection and Regional Development Ministry, Welfare Ministry, Foreign Ministry, Defense Ministry, Finance Ministry, physicians and local authorities.

As reported, Russia has promised to get its troops out of Latvia until Aug. 31 if the Baltic country allows it keep the radar for five and a half years.

Europe-Oriented Foreign Policy Plan Passed

WS0803195494 Tallinn BNS in English 1712 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 08, BNS—The Latvian Saeima (parliament) Foreign Affairs' Committee agreed Tuesday [8 March] to build the country's foreign policies concept on the report by Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs at a security-related conference.

The new concept is aimed at enlarging Latvia's contacts with the European Union, the West European Union and NATO, said committee head Alexander Kirsteins.

Latvia should prepare a free trade treaty with the European Union and to join the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly as an associated member, Kirsteins said, commenting on the most urgent diplomatic tasks.

Goodneighborly relations with Russia is another mainstream of Latvia's political activities.

Russia, as the legal heir of the collapsed Soviet Union, should recognize that Latvia was forcefully incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940. This recognition could be regarded as a landmark for building better relations between the two countries, said Kirsteins.

Latvia must soon adopt a citizenship law and a document regulating the rights of non-citizens, Kirsteins noted.

Kirsteins also praised President Boris Yeltsin's initiative to draft a uniform human rights convention to ensure mutual guarantees in the field of human rights preservation in Latvia and Russia.

The Latvian prime minister plans to address a Saeima plenary session with a more detailed version of his security report.

Navy To Take Part in Jun NATO Baltic Exercise

WS0903145794 Tallinn BNS in English 1855 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 08, BNS - The Latvian Navy plans to participate in NATO's Baltic Sea exercise, Baltops 94, in June, Cmdr. Gaidis Zeibots told BNS.

The training will be attended by 40 ships from the Baltic Sea countries and warships from the Netherlands and Belgium.

Latvia will send its M-02 deminer [mine sweeper] to the maneuvers. The Germany-presented vessel, however, needs to be duly equipped and armed by then.

Non-Latvians Hold Riga Protest Meeting

PM1003095394 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by correspondent Oleg Meshkov: "Latvia: Abyss Ever Deeper"]

[Text] Riga—Three years ago there was a poll of the population in Latvia with a view to ascertaining its attitude toward the republic's secession from the USSR. Many nonindigenous inhabitants sincerely believed that this act was in the mainstream of the democratic transformations which had begun and candidly answered that they were in favor. But now they have become convinced that they were simply misled. And on the third anniversary of that memorable poll a mass protest meeting was held on Riflemen's Square in central Riga, announced as a memorial meeting for the defunct "Latvian democracy for all." The triumphal all-Latvia poll laid the foundation not to interethnic harmony but created a "Republic of South Africa in the center of Europe"—that was the leitmotiv of the speakers' speeches.

Municipal elections will be held in Latvia soon. The Latvian saeima has adopted a law whereby only citizens of the republic can elect the municipal organs of power. Now the saeima intends to deliver another blow to noncitizens: A draft law on the status of the deputies of local organs of management of all levels has been put on the plenary session's agenda in its third, final, reading. At the initiative of the national radicals it includes a clause compelling deputies to receive voters and examine the applications and appeals of voters, that is only of those who are Latvian citizens.

The Latvian league of stateless persons has notified the republic's leaders and the ambassadors of foreign states that depriving noncitizens of the right to resolve their delay problems at elected municipal level and simply to be received is a gross act of provocation which pushes hundreds of thousands of outcasts to create their own alternative organs and representative missions at municipal level.

Funds Sought for Families of Perished in Army

WS0803184094 Tallinn BNS in English 1356 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 08, BNS—The Latvian Saeima (parliament) Defense and Interior Affairs' Committee discussed Tuesday [8 March] compensations for families whose supporters have perished during the mandatory armed service in the former Soviet army.

Around 200 such families need material assistance in Latvia, according to figures at the disposal of the committee.

The committee decided to send the collected files for Cabinet consideration, said its secretary Anita Stankevica.

The necessary funding could be demanded from Russia during bilateral talks or the Latvian Government could allot the money from the state budget, the committee said.

The future task of the committee is to gather information about people who were crippled while in the Soviet Army. Then, the group will contact assistance funds in Germany which offer financial help to Latvian citizens disabled in the Soviet Army.

More on Isotope Traffic; Finnish Deal Outlined

WS0803110094 Riga DIENA in Latvian 26 Feb 94 pp 1, 3

[Article by Janis Domburs: "Does Voldemars Selga Surpass Those Who Vanished in Lake Constance?"]

[Excerpts] Western security services are linking the trade in radioactive and nuclear materials with threats to international security. However, big money apparently can also be earned by dealing with nonradioactive isotopes, prices for which on the black market often are no lower and sometimes even higher than those for radioactive ones. The deal that Rimmele and Eichler [not further identified] concluded in Riga was valued at $2 million. Nevertheless, even this seems to be nothing in comparison with the sums with which Voldemars Selga, a well-known businessman in Latvia, is operating in deals concerning rare metals.

The document, which can be seen in the picture [published in English and Latvian next to the article and reported below], dated 3 February of this year, is called, literally translated, "Usage of bank guarantees of the Reconstruction and Development Bank [RDB] of Latvia for buying osmium." The text refers to an already received [two last words underlined] guarantee from RDB for $4,555,000,000 (! - J.D.) for the Finnish company "Wimco-Erica Finland Ltd" to purchase osm-187, and contains a requirement to confirm the right to use this guarantee to buy 32.9 kg of osm-187 in Russia. The RDB board president and owner of the control package is Voldemars Selga.

There are also materials in which the Finnish side confirms that the purchasing of osm has already begun. Actually, it must have started before one of the signatories, visible in the picture, began to talk about seeking—even with the assistance of INTERPOL—V. Selga's partner, RDB Vice President Andrejs Zagars, on suspicion of fraud...

The fax visible in the picture did not reach its intended recipient, and this explains why V. Selga's signature is not on the document. The sources of the above mentioned information are not sufficient to provide a precise description of the deal. Nevertheless, there can be no

doubt about such guarantees by the bank. According to the initial capital and capital stock, amounting to several hundred thousand lats, RDB only ranks somewhere in top 40 or 50 commercial banks in Latvia, and it should not have the right to give a guarantee for a million dollars, let alone any figure in the billions.

Suspicion also arouse over the fact that the mentioned quantity of osm—33 kg—is too big. Experts in Germany, commenting on the plans of Rimmele and Eichler to buy only 6 kg of osm-187 in China, acknowledged that demand for this material is measured in milligrams...

We do not have any more detailed information about the Finnish role. This cannot be said about possibilities to describe the personality of V. Selga. In 1984, during the era of the Soviet Union, he was sentenced to prison for fraud and falsification. Is Selga a crook? This was the question that arose in September 1992, when he was arrested on suspicion of cheating in a deal with the confectionery firm "Uzvara." V. Selga's background in the highest political circles could be observed when he was released from jail thanks to Latvian Supreme Council Deputies V. Kalnberzs and V. Steins, who posted bail for him. After all, he did not deliver the promised sugar for "Uzvara," but the money he had accepted in advance—50 million Latvian rubles—he only returned a few months later. [passage omitted]

These operations with the participation of Voldemars Selga, together with the Lake Constance story, provide food for thought—what is the nature of the environment in which the trade in isotopes in Latvia is occurring? Shady. The house of Victor Balulis on Sarma Street, where Eichler was kept after his capture, is undoubtedly connected to criminal circles. After his return from prison—in the second half of the 1980's, when the cooperative movement began—V. Selga was connected with these circles. Viktors Abakumovs and Aleksandrs Kisels, well-known people in the criminal world, were employees of his in the "Merkurijs" joint stock company. The first was murdered in the fall of 1991, the second was arrested for the second time last autumn and confronted with charges of blackmail. Today, it would be out-of-fashion to call them bandits, as they are all businessmen, doing legal business. However, it can be done in various ways—deals can be fair or shabby, and taxes can be paid or ignored...

In the West, the deals with rare metals are being watched by special services and by police, looking for evidence of cheating or blackmail, as well as by financial experts, who look for possible instances of "money laundering." In Latvia, minimal attention is paid to these problems and there are practically no chances for controls of any type. How can grams of anything be detected, if there are tons of sugar and flour being smuggled over the Latvian border? Still, a few grams of isotopes are far more valuable than several tons of sugar... Who has ever heard of any Latvian special services stating that they are in possession of some information in this respect, for instance regarding the production and trade control of isotopes in Russia? The story of Rimmele and Eichler provided sufficient grounds to begin speaking about it, but it seems that while quarreling with each other, there is no time left for such things. Can we speak about narrowing down the possibilities to "launder" money? Probably not, especially since, to date, any attempts by tax inspectors to control cash transactions have remained in the realm of dreams.

The dangerous thing is that trade in nonradioactive materials can not be discerned from trade in radioactive materials, which are hazardous for human health and life, because both come from the same delivery sources. In a secret report by the German Federal Intelligence Service on the black market of radioactive materials and the threat of radioactive terrorism from the East, Kaunas and Vilnius had been mentioned as centers of illegal trade. Anyhow, this may be little consolation for Latvia. Trading will continue in places where there are few hindrances to businessmen.

[Published in a box accompanying the article is a copy of a letter in English dated 3 February from the Finnish firm Wimco-Erica Finland to RDB President Voldemars Selga, reading:

"Dear Mr. Selga,

"Reconstruction and Development Bank of has issued A Bank Guarantee No. 4008/KN/AZ/is, with a value of USD 4,555,000,000 [previous amount circled] (Four Billion Five Hundred Fifty-Five Million). This Bank Guarantee has been issued for the benefit of Wimco-Erica Finland for buying Osmium-187.

"We have an offer to buy 32.9 kilograms of Osmium-187 in a favourable price for USD 64,450 per one gram. The value of the transaction is USD 2,120,405,000. As agreed with you and Mr. Horst Hamm, Wimco-Erica Finland will pay royalty USD 300 for each gram sold. Your bank shall get royalty USD 9.87 millions from this delivery.

"We ask you to accept Wimco-Erica Finland to use now this Bank Guarantee to buy Osmium-187 from Russia.

"GENCAR LTD., our marketing partner for Osmium trade. [previous sentence underlined]

"Marketing of this Osmium has been arranged in cooperation with Gencar Limited, a company managed by Mr. Kyoesti Lallukka, who is also a Member of Directors in Wimco-Erica Finland."

The letter is signed by Horst Hamm, "chairman of the Board of Directors of Wimco-Erica Finland," and Kyoesti Lallukka, "managing director" of Gencar Ltd.; there is place for RDB President Voldemars Selga to sign, but his signature does not appear.]

Lithuania

Negotiator Discusses Russian Military Transit

WS0803183894 Tallinn BNS in English 1356 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 08, BNS—Russia would like to carry out military transit through Lithuanian territory by road, by rail and by air, Virgilijus Bulovas, head of the Lithuanian working group for talks with CIS, told Lithuanian TV Monday [7 March].

The group announced after its meeting Monday that the Russian draft agreement on military transit should be discussed only when the parliament adopts a law on transportation of military and dangerous cargos through Lithuanian territory.

Commenting on the Russian draft, Bulovas said Lithuanian experts suggest to allow only transit by rail. In his words, transit by road is completely unacceptable to Lithuania, while transit by air can be carried out only in accordance with international regulations and requires separate permission of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry.

In Bulovas' opinion, Lithuania cannot create any specific regulations for Russian military transit. "The rules will be universal to all, be it Russia or NATO." The negotiator said his group is now working on regulations of transporting dangerous cargos by rail through Lithuania.

Bulovas noted that Lithuania does not have two borders with Russia, therefore it will be necessary either to sign a trilateral agreement between Lithuania, Russia and Belarus, or to conclude three separate bilateral agreements.

Bulovas said Russia has lately begun intensive transit by sea. In his words, the process is evident because the amount of transit by rail is considerably smaller than planned.

Sweden Backs Country's Observer Status in Council

LD0803201794 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Audrius Braukyla reports from Sweden]

[Text] Sweden will support the efforts of Lithuania and of the other Baltic states to have observer status in the Nordic Council. This was stated to Lithuanian National Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius by Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt, who received this Lithuanian representative in Stockholm this afternoon.

The wish by the head of the Swedish Government to meet the Lithuanian representative means Sweden's emphatic attention to bilateral relations between Lithuania and Sweden, Radio Vilnius was told by Linas Linkevicius. He noted that during the meeting the sides decided to develop cooperation in the sphere of maintaining peace. According to the Lithuanian national defense minister, Lithuanian experts will be trained in Sweden's special centers for maintaining peace. Linas Linkevicius also drew attention to the efforts by Carl Bildt to strengthen by every means the cooperation between the Nordic countries and the Baltic states, according to the formula five plus three.

Somewhat earlier, meeting journalists, the Swedish prime minister was for the continuous expansion of the European Union, including the Baltic states.

Prosecutor, Chechen Counterpart Sign Agreement

WS0903100794 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 3 Mar 94 No. 42 p 2

[Report by Ricardas Jarmalavicius: "A Confidential Meeting With the Chechens"]

[Text] As we have learned from reliable sources, yesterday, Lithuanian Prosecutor General A. Paulauskas and his Chechen counterpart I. Sheripova signed an agreement on cooperation between the two offices in investigating criminal cases.

Chechen Prosecutor General I. Sheripova arrived in Vilnius on Tuesday [1 March]. The visit was shrouded in secrecy from the very beginning. V. Eidukaitis, representative of Chechen President D. Dudayev in Lithuania, told RESPUBLIKA that Mrs. I. Sheripova had arrived at his invitation to "settle certain issues." According to Seimas [parliament] Deputy A. Endriukaitis, leader of the group for Lithuanian-Chechen parliamentary relations, employees of the Lithuanian and the Chechen Prosecutor General's Offices have cooperated constantly.

I. Sheripova also avoided a definitive reply by telling a RESPUBLIKA correspondent that she, as well as her Lithuanian colleagues, were concerned with the same problem—crime.

As one employee, who wished to remain anonymous, told RESPUBLIKA, by signing the agreement, the Lithuanian Prosecutor General's Office has found itself in an "awkward" position. The reason is that the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry is worried that the agreement with the Chechen Republic as an independent state might harm our relations with Russia, which views this Caucasian state as its republic. Nor has Lithuania recognized the independence of this country. It was decided not to publicize this agreement so as to avoid a diplomatic incident.

Draft Treaty With Poland, Reaction Examined

WS0903145994 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 24 Feb 94 No. 37 p 4

[Editorial: "The Spirit of Political Innocence..."]

[Excerpts] Since the fifth round of talks between Lithuania and Poland on the interstate agreement is over, we can finally say with relief—it seems that we have the treaty. We say "it seems," because politicians get down to work after diplomats finish their job, and the aims of the first often differ from those of the latter. Therefore, it is not accidental that on Tuesday [22 February], Deputy Foreign Minister V. Domarkas, who heads the delegation for negotiations, evaded a definite reply to RESPUBLIKA's straight question whether this really meant accomplished work. "We coordinated everything what can be coordinated on the level of deputy ministers," such was his diplomatic reply. One should interpret it in this way: We have done our job, but will politicians like the result...? Certainly, not all of them. Negotiations with Poland have become one of Lithuania's protracted foreign policy myths, as well as a yielding cow from which most of our radicals like to milk political dividends. The Poles are insidious invaders who day and night think about recovering Vilnius occupied by Zeligowski in 1920. They began to hammer this idea into people's heads long before the declaration of independence. Certainly, there is no fire without smoke. However, Lithuanian political radicals exaggerate Poland's interests in the Vilnius region (anyway, several thousand Poles live here). Some of these enthusiasts looked for and, of course, found certain parallels with Nazi activities in the Klaipeda region in the 1930's.

Our patriotically disposed countrymen did not even consider that the situation in the late 20th century in Europe is different from that in the third decade. [passage omitted] Frontiers are falling. Although with creaks, Europe is uniting. Lithuania is also declaring its intention to become a member of the European Union and sign a free trade agreement with it. Even our greatest "Polophobes" approve this. However, one simple truth seems to escape their heads for some reason—we can reach the long-desired Europe only through our western neighbor—Poland. Therefore, even the staunchest advocates of Lithuanian "Eurocentrism" should understand that normalizing our relations with Poland and signing a bilateral agreement is primarily more in our interest than in theirs. Instead of assuming the position of insulted historical innocence, we should demonstrate more flexibility and not try to revive the 70-year-old specter of Zeligowski. If we want to become civilized Europeans, we should behave according to their standards. [passage omitted]

In the current draft treaty coordinated by diplomats, Poland recognizes Vilnius as the capital of Lithuania and condemns certain historical events in the preamble.

However, this is insufficient for those Polish and Lithuanian politicians who feed on political disputes. On the day of negotiations, the Polish Catholic daily SLOWO published an open letter to Polish leaders, demanding that special guarantees for Lithuania's Poles be incorporated in the treaty. In the authors' opinion, first of all, such guarantees should be considered in the talks between the Polish Government and the Lithuanian Poles' Union. One could ignore this letter, if the author was not the blatant and influential organization "Kresy" [territory to the east of Poland formerly under its rule].

Yesterday, we could hear some Lithuanian voices cautiously condemning the treaty as well. Former Foreign Minister A. Saudargas, member of the Christian Democratic Party, deemed it a "unilateral concession" at yesterday's press conference. [passage omitted]

We would like to draw the attention of all future critics to the following fact—on the day when V. Domarkas was shaking hands with I. Biczewski [Polish deputy foreign minister], the latter's chief [Olechowski] was greeting the Russian foreign minister [Kozyrev]. Judging by the comments on Polish television, Moscow is operatively improving its relations with Warsaw. If the latter's ties with Russia really strengthen, while those with Vilnius deteriorate, in what situation will Lithuania find itself? It is worth remembering that before World War II the "Baltic Entente" was not established only because of Lithuania's difficult relations with Poland. This was useful to the USSR and Germany alone. Do Lithuania's great patriots want this situation to recur?

TV Debate Targets Confidence in LDDP Government

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[Report by Raimonda Rameliene: "Which Color Government, Except the Red One, Will Save Lithuania?"]

[Excerpts] On Wednesday [23 February] evening before "Panorama" [television newscast] aired, representatives of four political forces spent 45 minutes discussing a truly global problem: Can the government headed by A. Slezevicius be trusted? As it had been reported before, such a topic for a televised discussion was proposed by the Democratic Party. Five of the six participants in the program are Seimas [parliament] deputies—G. Pavirzis and A. Kuncinas (the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDDP]), V. Andriukaitis (the Social Democratic Party), S. Peceliunas, and J. Tartilas (the Democratic Party). Thus, it is natural that the debate reminded everyone of the "sweet" oral clashes between the majority and the opposition in the legislature, and echoed the recent Seimas discussion on the country's internal situation. [passage omitted] The only person not "elected" by the nation was A. Ambrazevicius, representative of the Movement for National Progress.

Opening the discussion, S. Peceliunas raised two questions: Would the change of government provide anything today, and would the new officials really conduct a policy that is not harmful to the state? Has the time come to replace those who appointed this government?

Providing examples from the recent activities of the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Transportation (uncontrolled military transit, the problem of the

Adutiskis railway station [dispute with Belarus], attitudes toward the Polish-Lithuanian treaty), the democrats' representative drew the following conclusion: "I think that we should not discharge the government en masse now." It might be sufficient to replace four ministers by citing specific charges of acting against the state. In S. Peceliunas' opinion, however, there is another problem: The ruling party itself is incapable of managing the country. "Therefore, it is getting upset and angry with itself and others." The fact that the entire LDDP list found itself in the Seimas after the elections is responsible for this situation. Many representatives of the majority do not even know now what they have to do. Would not they be worth replacing? A referendum on the people's confidence in the government could answer this question.

A. Kuncinas, who had told journalists back on Wednesday morning that the topic of discussion was formulated incorrectly, reminded everyone that the manner of changing the government is indicated in the Constitution and the Seimas Statute. Therefore, there was no need to discuss such an issue in public. It would be also improper for the LDDP to express no confidence in its own government. The LDDP may criticize and reprimand it, which is being accomplished, and search for solutions.

V. Andriukaitis repeatedly listed the promises and commitments given by the sixth cabinet of ministers which it failed to fulfill, and reminded the government of its political responsibility. At the same time, he stressed that the government crisis in Lithuania is deep and that it has continued for several years. There is hardly such a political force today which could resolve all our problems by itself. In V. Andriukaitis' opinion, it would be useful to draft a doctrine of interpellation that would help determine whether a broad political coalition was possible, attract specialists, freeze all claims for two years, and design a serious program which would be approved by all forces after reaching a consensus.

According to V. Andriukaitis, an interpellation to the government does not mean its overthrow. It could manifest itself through parliamentary criticism, debates, and proposals, which would be a serious step toward progress.

According to G. Pavirzis, even though the government is reprimanded greatly, it is imposing. The Seimas deputy reminded everyone that after the elections, the LDDP called on all political forces to form a coalition government, but the latter refused. [passage omitted] It is easy to criticize programs. However, the times when five-year plans were fulfilled in three years are already over. We should not interfere with the government's work, the more so since the LDDP does not shun responsibility.

"Lithuania will hardly ever be in such a unique situation as today," said A. Ambrazevicius. The LDDP has the parliamentary majority, the Presidency, the government, and the prime minister, who is also the party chairman. Thus, its responsibility is unequivocal. However, the LDDP often behaves as though it did not have this majority. This is bad, because these four years in office are the party's chance. LDDP's political future will depend on its ability to use this chance. The opposition should not obstruct the ruling majority, demand early elections, and so on. Unfortunately, it resorts to the principle "the worse for the state, the better for the opposition" more often today. [passage omitted]

J. Tartilas shared A. Ambrazevicius' opinion on the government's dependence. "The spectrum is really monochromatic—the president, the Seimas, and the government." However, two years have passed since the "red color began to administer Lithuania," and what has been accomplished? J. Tartilas said that he saw a much deeper meaning in this issue than just a government collapse. This might be the desire to avoid responsibility and oust the government with the opposition's hands. One could explain later that the opposition is to blame for everything. Thus, J. Tartilas suggested that the LDDP government be allowed to work for its full four-year term. However, if we were to replace it, we should change the entire "spectrum."

Replying to some people's doubts, S. Peceliunas explained: "We do not seek power. We are talking about Lithuania's situation and perspective. We see that the current manner of governing reduces this perspective, while the majority would not listen to our proposals." [passage omitted]